

# **GreenTown Los Altos**

**A Presentation to Los Altos Parks & Recreation  
July 8, 2020**



# Mission

To protect and enhance the environment of Los Altos & Los Altos Hills through advocacy, education, and community engagement while contributing to and leveraging regional and global environmental efforts.



# Priorities & Objectives

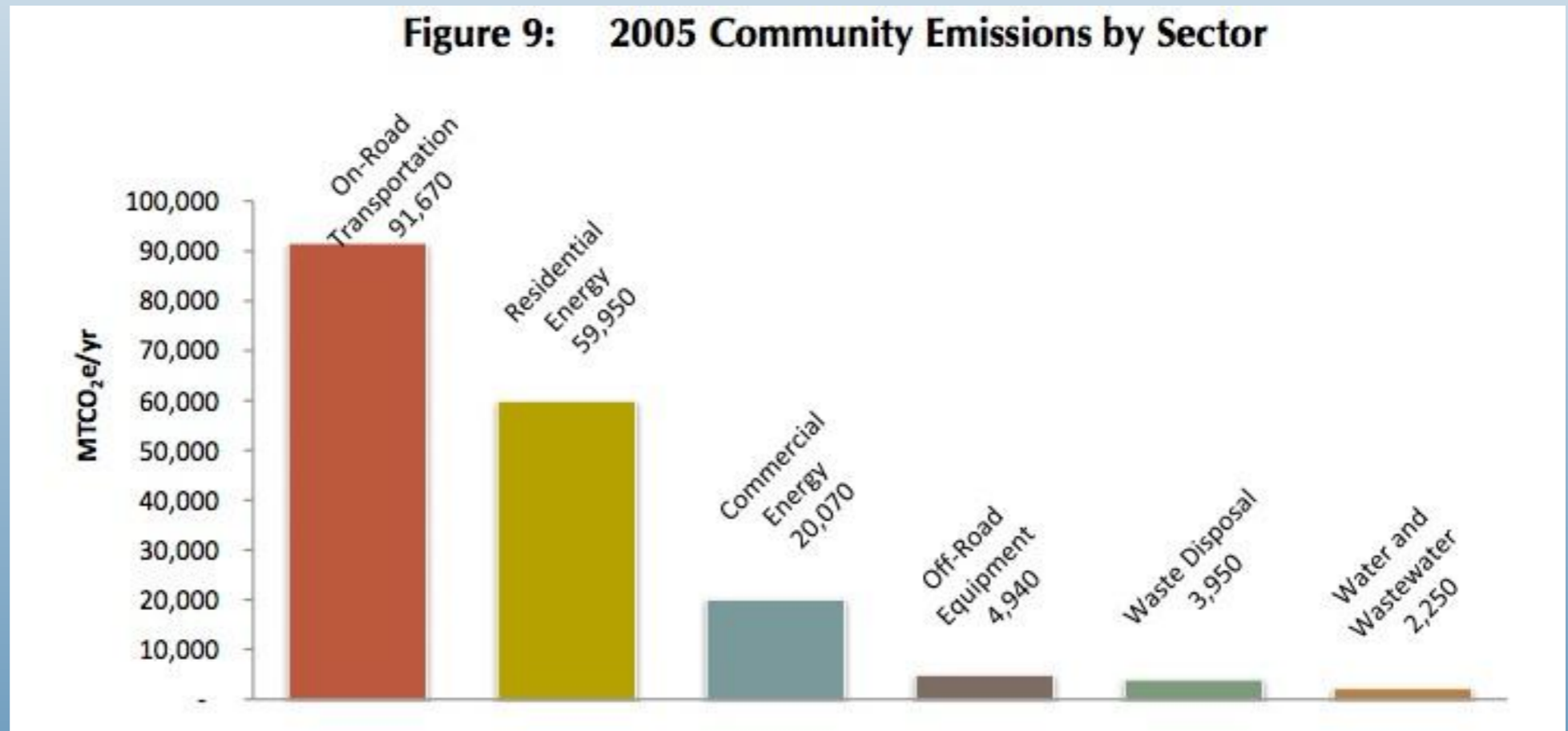
## Priorities

- Reducing our community's carbon footprint (GHGs)
- Conserving our community's natural resources
- Encouraging sustainable actions and behaviors
- Building a culture of stewardship for our planet

## Objectives

- Reduce transportation-related fossil fuel use
- Eliminate fossil fuel use in homes and businesses
- Achieve zero waste in homes and businesses
- Conserve and protect our air, water and habitat
- Encourage sustainable food choices

# Los Altos GHGs



Source: Los Altos Climate Action Plan, Dec. 2013

Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# Electric Vehicles



Working to increase the number of EV registrations in our community.

Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# WoW! Walk or Wheel



Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# Advocating for Safer Routes



Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# ReCycle Bike Drive



- 150 Bikes Collected and Fixed!!
- Most delivered to LAHS, MVHS, MVWSD, LASD



Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# Bike Valet



Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# Historic Homes Tour (Fall)



Reducing transportation-related fossil fuel use

# Winter Solstice Night Bike Ride



Eliminate fossil-fuel use in homes and businesses

# Cleaner Homes & Businesses

## 1. Advocating for cleaner electricity



- In April 2017, SVCE came on line with 100% carbon free electric power

### Features

- Local control over purchases
- Local fund for energy efficiency
- Local renewable energy development
- Better pricing for solar
- Choice for our residents



SOURCE



buying and  
building energy  
supplies



DELIVERY



delivering energy,  
repairing lines  
serving customers



CUSTOMER



benefitting from  
cleaner energy,  
local control

## 2. Encouraging fuel-switching

- Water heating (HPWH), space heating (AS & GSHP), cooking (induction)

## 3. Promoting fossil-free new construction

- Reach Codes (~40 homes/year)
  - Takes advantage of 100% carbon free electricity
  - Safer, healthier, cost-effective
  - California is moving towards fossil-free by 2045

Achieve zero waste in homes, schools and businesses

# Waste Reduction Program



Achieve zero waste in homes, schools and businesses

# Diverting Waste at Schools



- Worked with LAHS, Egan, Loyola, Santa Rita and Blach
- Building better systems for sorting and collecting recyclables and compostable material.



Achieve zero waste in homes, schools and businesses

# Working with Businesses

- Offering compostables to businesses at a discount
  - Partner with Epicurean Group
  - Offer 25% discount to any organization that is interested
- Skip the Straws
  - Offer straws, table top education to address plastic pollution



EPICUREAN GROUP

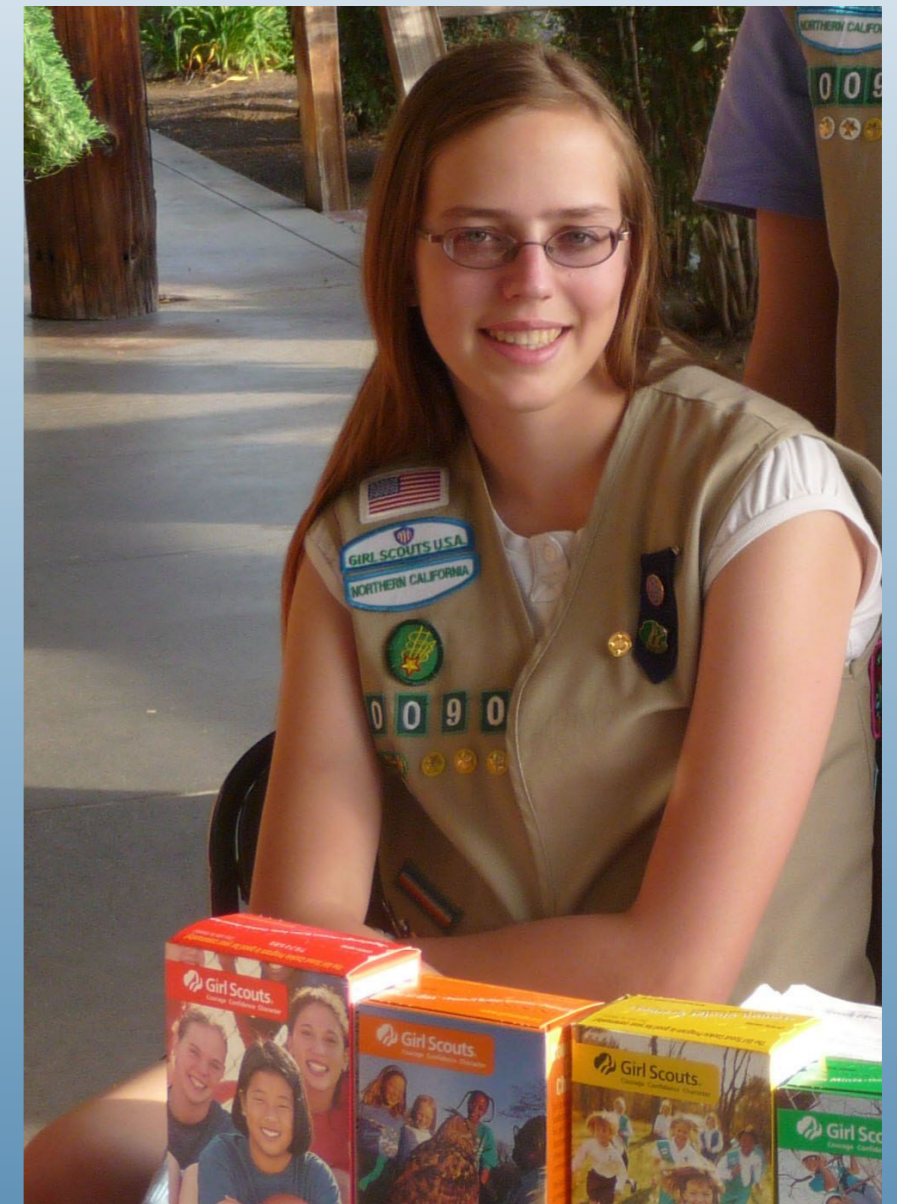
*fresh. honest. local.*

Achieve zero waste in homes, schools and businesses

# Advocating for Plastic Bag Bans



Though more than 90% of shoppers surveyed own reusable bags, a little more than 20% bring them shopping.



Los Altos plastic bag ban was passed July 4, 2013



Conserve and protect our air, water and habitat

# 500 Trees

- **Trees offered at cost, planted for FREE with help from:**
  - LAHS Green Team
  - Climate Action Team
  - SLOBS, Boy Scouts,
  - Living Wisdom School
  - Together We Can, and others
- **First tree planted at Rosita Park**
- **Total of 162 trees planted!**
- **Wide variety of trees**
  - Valley Oaks
  - Chinese Pistache
  - Fruit Trees
  - Western Redbud
- **Kinder quote:**



*“It’s like breathing, except [the trees] take in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen.”*

Conserve and protect our air, water and habitat

# Clean Air Advocates

## Anti-Idling

Working with schools and the City to reduce vehicle idling.

### LAHS Case Study

- Surveys, signage, education
- Total idling observed reduced by 79% and 88% in the front!



## Gas Leaf Blowers

Educating homeowners about the 1991 ban in Los Altos.

2- and 4-stroke engines are highly polluting and a rapidly increasing contributor to GHG inventories

1 hour of gas-powered leaf blower is equivalent to 1100 miles of driving

Conserve and protect our air, water and habitat

# Creek Cleanups



Conserve and protect our air, water and habitat

# Water Conservation Program



Encourage sustainable food choices

# Eating Green

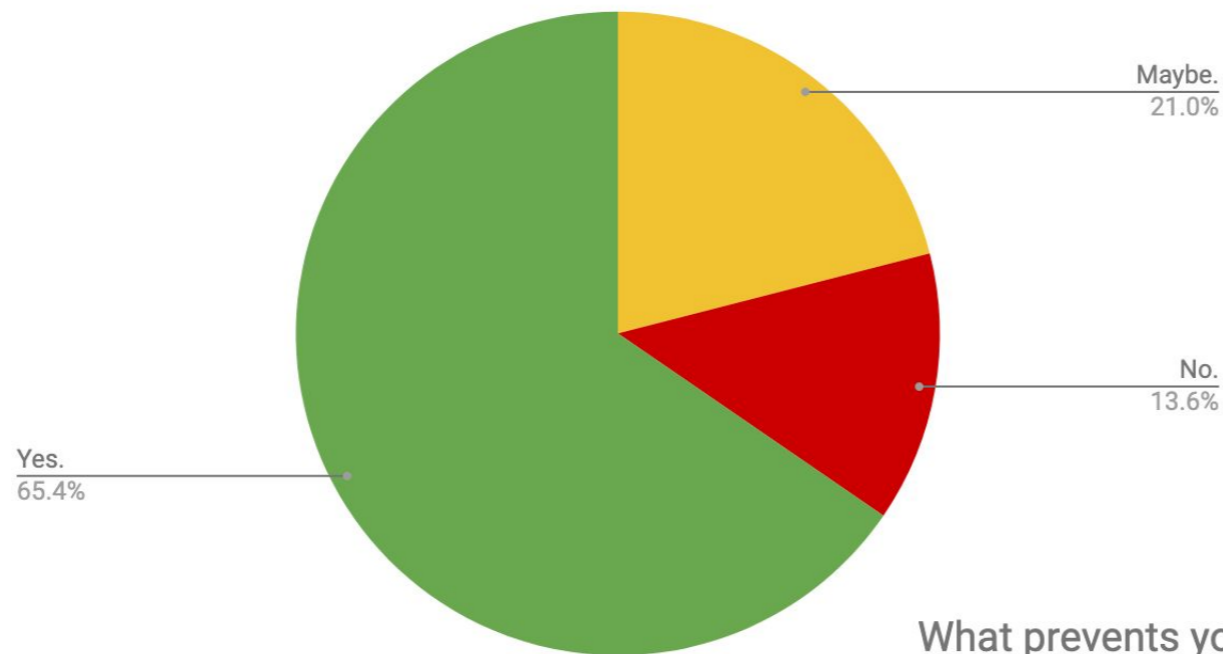
**Addresses animal agriculture, a critical contributor to environmental degradation:**

- **Generates 18% of GHGs worldwide**
- **Uses 29% of freshwater resources**
- **And 77% of all agricultural land is dedicated to animal agriculture**
- **Contributes to deforestation, biodiversity loss, dead zones**

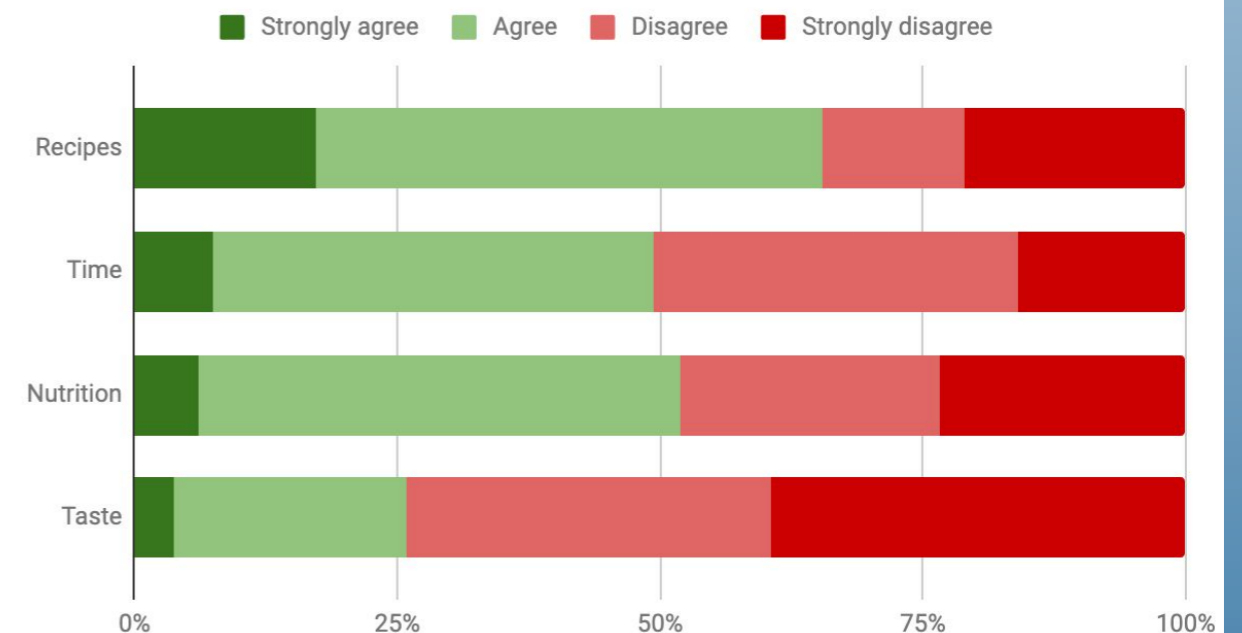
Encourage sustainable food choices

# Eating Green

Would you like to eat more plant-based foods?



What prevents you from eating more plant-based meals?



- Surveyed 150 residents
- Most would like more plant-based foods
- Recipes and time are barriers
- We are working on educating about recipes that are simple and yummy!

Encourage sustainable food choices

# Eating Green



- Eating Green on the Green Event
- Community Forums with Ocean Robbins, Nils Zacharias, The Joyful Vegan and more
- Cooking Demos with Lisa Book-Williams and Isabelle Cnudde



Building a culture of stewardship for our planet

# Working with Youth

## Internship

- We are in the third year of our internship program!
- Generally, rising HS seniors working on Waste, 500 Trees, Eating Green, etc.

## Partnerships and collaborations:

- Los Altos High School Green Team
- Los Altos Youth Climate Action Team
- Nature and Conservation Kids at Blach
- Climate Change Club at Egan





# Learn More

1. Visit our Website
2. Email us
3. Sign up for our Newsletter
4. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram

**@GreenTown Los Altos**

## 5. GET INVOLVED!

**Lots of opportunities to volunteer your time!**

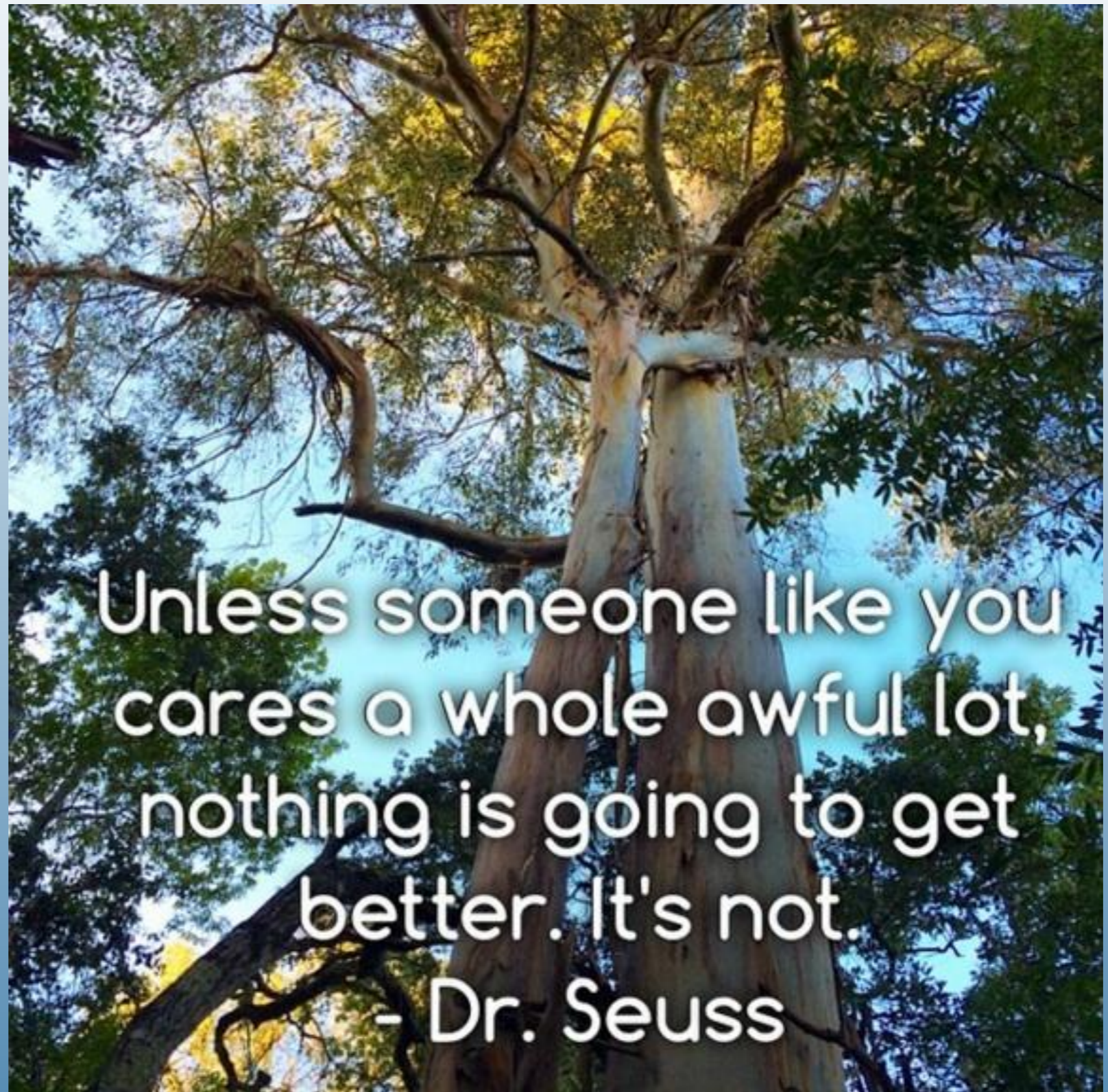
**Great people to work with!**

**Meaningful mission!**

**[www.GreenTownLosAltos.org](http://www.GreenTownLosAltos.org)**

**[info@GreenTownLosAltos.org](mailto:info@GreenTownLosAltos.org)**





Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get  
better. It's not.  
- Dr. Seuss