



The above graphic that we developed over the last several months encapsulates our organizational values, and how they contribute to our work and the impact we are having in the community. During the past year, the Hitchcock Center has served as a source of hope and inspiration, a community convener, and an educational resource reaching more than 13,000 people each year in the Connecticut River Valley region and beyond:

- **Living Building** — Our building is a working model for a sustainable future, a resource for others who want to adopt sustainable practices, and a source of hope and inspiration for all who visit. We used the Living Building to teach, convene, and host more than 5,000 people of all ages last year. Our grounds, gardens, and walking trails are open to the public, and help to connect children and adults to nature and each other.
- **Community Convening** – We bring people together, building relationships and collaborations to build resilience to climate change. Through collaboration with the Public Health Institute of Western Mass and many other partners, we educated more than 700 people in the Connecticut River Valley about the relationship between air quality, climate and health. We are building a network of more than 75 air quality sensors throughout the region, teaching people how to build their own air cleaners, and how they can advocate for clean air and a healthy environment.
- **Civic Engagement** – Our Adult Community Programs and Climate Action Series brought together 1,038 community members to learn about local natural history and address critical issues at the intersection of climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice through practical workshops, learning sessions, and discussions.
- **Stormwater Education** – We partnered with 6 towns throughout the Valley to educate youth about watershed ecology, water conservation, and nature based solutions to address the increased cycles of flooding and drought we are seeing with climate change.
- **Educating Children, Youth and Families** – 1,145 children participated in our on-site vacation and summer camps, afterschool, and homeschool programs to learn problem-solving skills in an outdoor context, and collaborate on creative visioning of a sustainable future.
- **Financial Access** – More than 30% of the children, youth and families who participated in on-site programs benefited from increased financial access provided by our tiered fee structure and scholarship program.

- School Residencies – Hitchcock educators made repeated visits to schools, developing relationships with students and teachers as they led sustainable design and engineering challenges, took students on field trips to explore local ecosystems, brought classes to the Hitchcock Center to see sustainable design in action in our Living Building, and supported student action projects. These programs involved more than 200 teachers and 9,300 student interactions in 12 towns including Springfield, Longmeadow, Northampton, Amherst, South Hadley, Athol, Ware, Ashfield, Conway, Whately, Sunderland, and Deerfield (60% of which are Title I schools).
- Springfield Public Schools – More than 400 third-grade students and teachers in 23 classrooms participated in our Schools Exploring Engineering, Design, and Sustainability (SEEDS) program in partnership with the Springfield Public Schools this year. This program will reach all third-grade teachers over 3 years with a combination of professional development, resource kits, classroom activities, and field trips to the Hitchcock Center. Evaluation demonstrates that these students are increasing their understanding of and interest in design and engineering, and building their skills and identity as scientists and engineers. And, teachers are showing increased interest and confidence in teaching about science, engineering, and problem-solving.
- Holyoke YMCA – Youth from ages 3-13 worked with Hitchcock Center educators to learn through experiences with living creatures in Holyoke, explore science through hands-on activities, and work on problem solving and design challenges.
- Youth Climate Leadership – Teen leaders, supported by Hitchcock Center staff, worked with 10 youth climate action teams from across the region as part of the Western Massachusetts Youth Climate Summit in collaboration with Mass Audubon.
- Professional Development – We provided professional learning opportunities for college interns, pre-service and in-service teachers.
- Community Support – This year, 157 volunteers donated their time and 703 donors supported the transformative work of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, through generous annual financial and in-kind donations.