



The Sunrise Project Inc.

Annual Report

2022



Letter from the Chair

The compounding crisis of the last few years have left many of us feeling overwhelmed and hopeless. Right now my hometown of Seattle, WA has been experiencing our hottest May days on record - something that so many of you are all too familiar with as well. This time of compounding crisis though, is also a time of opening - and a time in which there are new glimmers of hope.

One place giving me that sense of hope and clarity of purpose is the time I have spent with The Sunrise Project. I'm inspired by The Sunrise Project's boldness to tackle the challenges of climate change with urgency and strategy and to an organisational wide commitment to constantly reflecting and improving as we go. I hope you are equally energised by our work to move beyond fossil fuels while also funding and building a diverse, equitable, and robust movement for long-term change.

2022 was a pivotal year for The Sunrise Project - and for our global work to hasten the transition to renewable energy and combat the threats of climate change. After many years of deliberation, legal counsel, and strategic considerations, 2022 was the year we embarked on a new journey as a global network of independent entities. We believe this new network approach will position us for greater impact and the ability to enable the systemic transformation we seek. 2022 also marked a turning point in other critical ways as travel resumed in full force. Our staff gathered for the first time in person for a global retreat and on a personal note, I finally met in person with the Board and leadership team after two years of long zoom meetings. We also continued our focus on advancing justice, equity and diversity internally and externally in our work, putting in place new internal systems and critical processes.

As we formalise operations in the United States, I am delighted to take on chairpersonship of The Sunrise Project Inc. - a US based 501c3 entity with a global perspective and impact.

Having begun my tenure as a member of The Sunrise Project Australia Board, and now as I step into this new role, I want to extend my deep gratitude to all my board colleagues Aviva, Catherine, Erna, Giles, Jason, and Miranda for their wisdom and guidance and especially to Claire Mallison for her leadership during this time of significant transition.

Finally I want to thank our funders for their steadfast support, our brilliant and dedicated staff, and all the partner organisations who make The Sunrise Project's work possible.

I invite you to join us in our journey to a climate-healthy future that benefits all. Whether as a funder, a partner organisation, or a community member, you can play an important role in the work to advance a more climate justice oriented future.



Sudha Nandagopal
Chair of the Board



Sunrise Inc.

Board of Directors



Sudha Nandagopal Chair of the Board

Sudha Nandagopal is a highly regarded organizer, facilitator, strategist, and movement builder focused on democratizing systems of power. Her career includes leadership roles in strategic communications, international organizing, program design, policy creation, and political campaigns. Through this work and her leadership in social, environmental, climate and racial justice organizations, Sudha has developed expertise in multi-sector stakeholder engagement, networks, collaborative problem solving, and building power with communities of color, immigrants, and refugees in the United States.

As Chief Executive Officer of Social Venture Partners International (SVPI), Sudha cultivates and expands a philanthropic network to catalyze more resources to communities around the globe, demonstrate ways for philanthropy to share power and wealth, and build stronger relationships between philanthropists and communities. Under Sudha's leadership in response to the systemic crises magnified by the COVID 19 pandemic and the renewed global reckoning on racial justice, SVPI launched Reimagine Giving, to inspire donors to become system change advocates. Prior to joining SVP International, Sudha co-founded, in partnership with community leaders, and led the City of Seattle's Equity & Environment Initiative.

Sudha is a published author and an expert consultant for foundations, local governments, and national environmental organisations. Grist Magazine recognized Sudha as one of their inaugural Grist 50 visionaries who will "lead us to a more sustainable future." Puget Sound Business Journal recently recognized Sudha as one of the region's 40 under 40 for her leadership in philanthropy and the social change sector. Sudha holds a degree in Biology and Society from Cornell University which informs her systems thinking and interdisciplinary approach.



John Hepburn Founder and Co-Executive Director, Sunrise Australia

John is an activist and social entrepreneur with over twenty-five years experience running environmental campaigns. In 2017, he was an inaugural recipient of the Climate Breakthrough Award, which was the catalyst for Sunrise to scale its work globally. Prior to founding The Sunrise Project in 2012, John spent a decade leading campaigns with Greenpeace, and previously worked on a wide variety of environmental campaigns at a grassroots level. He is the founder of several non-profit recycling businesses, which led to him being awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2002. John holds degrees in Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Business Management, and before becoming an activist, worked for several years as an engineer making components for the oil, gas and coal industries.



Sam La Rocca Co-Executive Director, Sunrise Australia

Sam leads the Sunrise Project's Australian Program. He brings over twenty-five years experience building people powered movements for a socially just and ecologically sane world. Sam holds a multidisciplinary degree in environmental science, and while completing his first class honours thesis on grassroots mobilisation, he co-founded activist education outfit The Change Agency to deliver social movement education, campaign strategy and organising training programs to community groups around Australia and internationally. He's worked as a senior political advisor in federal parliament and led highly successful electoral campaigns. He has facilitated movement-wide processes for the Climate Action Network Australia and Friends of the Earth International's Asia Pacific Region; and he has a strong interest in building powerful networks to catalyse system change.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Sunrise Project Inc
For the Period from June 6, 2022 (Inception) to December 31, 2022

	2022
	\$
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Contributions and grants	9,826,977
Other income	19,303
Total support and revenue	9,846,280
EXPENSES	
Program services	3,795,634
Total program services	3,795,634
Supporting services	
General and administrative	848,870
Fundraising	16,727
Total supporting services	865,597
Total expenses	4,661,231
Change in net assets	5,185,049
Net assets at beginning of period	-
Net assets at end of period	5,185,049

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Sunrise Project Inc
December 31, 2022

	2022
	\$
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	5,234,549
Other assets	12,325
Total assets	5,246,874
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	61,825
Total liabilities	61,825
Net assets	
Without donor restrictions	3,345,673
With donor restrictions	1,839,376
Total net assets	5,185,049
Total liabilities and net assets	5,246,874



The Sunrise Project Inc.

3500 South DuPont Highway
Suite DT 101
Dover, DE 19901
United States

sunriseproject.us

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We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous peoples and local communities of the lands on which we live and work. We recognise the leadership of these communities in the struggle for climate justice and our responsibility to uplift their voices and histories.