

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

Since form 15-8898 itself has limited space for text we have chosen to expand on the information included on the form in this document. The ***headings in bold and italic reflect form 15-8898***. The *underlined and italic headings reflect the statute which defines specific public benefits*.

3. (i) A narrative description of the ways in which the benefit company pursued general public benefit during the year and the extent to which general public benefit was created.

During 2022, Groovy Greens, LLC created public benefit in the following ways:

(1) providing low-income or underserved individuals or communities with beneficial products or services:

- The Groovy Greens formed and operated the “Springtown Community Farm Stand” which is located on the same property as Groovy Greens in the center of the village of Springtown and at the Springtown Post Office. The purpose of the Farm Stand is to provide fresh produce to low income and needy families either directly through donations of produce from patrons’ gardens or indirectly via donations paid for produce at the stand. In addition, Groovy Greens patrons can choose to donate the value of their pre-paid produce that they are unable to pick up, to the Food Banks. Through these efforts, during 2022, Groovy Greens donated a total of \$381 to local Food Banks, specifically Quakertown Food Bank, the Lord’s Pantry in Ottsville and the New Jerusalem Food Pantry of Hellertown.
- Groovy Greens donated a total of 32 lbs of excess fresh produce to local Food Banks worth \$455.

(2) promoting economic opportunity for individuals or communities beyond the creation of jobs in the normal course of business:

- Groovy Greens provided farm-related skills learning opportunities for two volunteers in 2022.

(3) preserving the environment:

- Adaptive re-use of buildings & materials
 - Groovy Greens operations are carried out in buildings and greenhouses previously used as a garden center. By re-using existing infrastructure we are reducing the impact on the environment.
 - Raised beds were made from old fencing and garden soil from a landscaping customer.
 - Tables used at the previous garden center were modified for growing greens.

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

- Minimizing non-renewable resource use
 - We elected to use coconut fiber and rice hulls, both waste products in our growing media in place of peat and vermiculite, both essentially non-renewable resources. We compost and re-use all our growing media with the goal of reducing off-farm inputs over time.
 - We provide returnable packaging to the majority of our customers in the form of organic cotton bags and recyclable plastic containers.
- Minimizing waste
 - All organic materials including greens and growing tray wastes are recycled via on-site composting and vermicomposting.
 - Groovy Greens provides a local hub to enable customers and local residents a place to recycle hard to recycle items such as well used food containers via Terracycle, a national recycling company.
 - The disposal of 568 single use bags and 160 containers was avoided through the use of returnable packaging in 2022.
- Minimizing chemical use
 - Groovy Greens employs organic growing methods, although not certified organic, we use natural fertilizers, soil amendments and pesticides. We are working on reducing the quantity of these substances by improving the biology in the growing media and soil.

(4) improving human health:

- Groovy Greens provides fresh local produce to the community; which due to its freshness, variety and organic growing methods, is more healthy than typical store-bought salad greens.
- Groovy Greens' focus is on increasing the nutrient density of the food grown and we are constantly working on improving the taste and quality of our greens.

(5) promoting the arts, sciences or advancement of knowledge:

- Groovy Greens held an Open House in May 2022, where mini workshops on soil and compost were offered.

(6) promoting economic development through support of initiatives that increase access to capital for emerging and growing technology enterprises, facilitate the transfer and commercial adoption of new technologies, provide technical and business support to emerging and growing technology enterprises or form support partnerships that support those objectives:

- Not applicable

(7) increasing the flow of capital to entities with a public benefit purpose:

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

- Not applicable

(8) the accomplishment of any other particular benefit for society or the environment:

- One of our stated goals is to “foster community spirit”, we feel we have benefited our customers and local community by offering in-person pick up where customers interact with Groovy Greens staff and experience chance encounters with other customers.
- In conjunction with Painted Earth Greenhouses, Groovy Greens held an Open House and two customer appreciation social events in 2022, which were attended and enjoyed by more than fifty customers and community members.

3. (ii) the ways in which the benefit company pursued any specific public benefit that the certificate of organization states is the purpose of the benefit company to create and the extent to which that specific public benefit was created:

There is no specific public benefit stated on the certification of organization for Groovy Greens, LLC, however, on our website we state the following:

“In addition to growing and selling our food in an environmentally conscious manner, our stated public benefits are as follows:

- To provide healthy, delicious and nutrient dense food for local people, including those in need
- To provide educational opportunities for local people to learn about growing food, composting and improving soil health
- To foster community spirit”

We have accomplished these purposes by the activities set forth at 3(i), above.

(iii) any circumstances that have hindered the creation by the benefit company of general or specific public benefit:

None

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

3. (iv) the process and rationale for selecting or changing the third-party standard used to prepare the benefit report:

Groovy Greens is an urban-style farm growing salad greens on tables in a small greenhouse and in ground beds at two locations. In selecting our third-party standard in 2020, we reviewed a number of standards, including B-Corp and Rodale's Regenerative Agriculture standards. The Food Alliance standards were chosen since they were found they are the most suitable for our operation.

The Food Alliance certifies agricultural operations, food processors and distributors that ensure:

- Safe and fair working conditions.
- The health and humane treatment of farm animals.
- Reduced risk from pesticides and other toxic or hazardous materials.
- Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
- Conservation of soil, water, and energy, and reduction and recycling of waste.
- Transparent and traceable supply chains.
- Food product integrity, with no genetically engineered or artificial ingredients.
- Continual improvement of management practices.

Food Alliance is a non-profit organization, its certification body has clear, publicly available standards and is a credible and effective way for producers and food companies to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable management practices.

The Food Alliance has several different sustainability standards, one of which, the Whole Farm Evaluation Tool, is for crop producers which covers all fruit, vegetable, nut, cereal, pulse and other crops. This is the main standard against which Groovy Greens operations are assessed. The Operational Efficiencies section from the Food Alliance's Nursery Greenhouse's Evaluation Tool was also utilized in order to capture some important environmental measures such as energy and resource use not included in the Whole Farm Evaluation Tool.

It is important to note that whilst Groovy Greens operations were assessed against these Food Alliance standards, it was a self-evaluation and has not been audited or certified by a third-party standards provider. (This is allowable by law as set out in Chapter 15 section § 8898). The Benefits Director making the Annual Compliance Statement is independent of operations at Groovy Greens.

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

4. An assessment of the overall social and environmental performance of the benefit company against a third-party standard applied consistently with any application of that standard in prior benefit reports or accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for any inconsistent application.

Overall Evaluation Score: 86% (including fixed criteria)

The Table below shows a summary of scores (self-evaluated by the Benefits Officer and checked by the Benefits Director).

Section Heading	Food Alliance Evaluation Tool	
	Whole Farm Evaluation Tool	Nursery Greenhouse Production Evaluation Tool
Integrated Pest, Disease and Weed Management, and Pesticide Risk Reduction	98%	
Soil and Water Conservation	82%	
Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation	61%	
Safe and Fair Working Conditions (for Employees)	N/A	
Operational Efficiencies		88%
Fixed Criteria (no GMOs and no Prohibited Pesticides)	100%	
OVERALL EVALUATION SCORE 86%		

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

Key areas for Improvement identified using the Food Alliance Evaluation and other Tools are shown in the table below with associated 2022 implementation notes and actions for 2023.

Food Alliance KPIs	Status (2022 Notes)	2023 Actions
Reduce no. of pests and use of pesticides	<p>Our goal is to grow the most healthy plants that are virtually immune to insects and diseases by balancing minerals and improving soil biology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Very few insect pest problems were encountered - no pesticides biological or otherwise were used in 2022</i> • <i>Groundhogs significantly reduced lettuce production in the fall</i> • <i>Mice were a problem in the microgreens growing space</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work on improving soil and plant health 2. Further experiment with foliar sprays to provide extra nutrients when plants are in sub-optimal health due to soil deficiencies or stress-inducing environmental conditions such as extreme heat. 3. Further protect crops from mammalian pests.
Reducing towns water use	<p>In progress - unable to measure directly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduced length and frequency of watering GG raised beds</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install gutter and rain barrels to collect rainwater for use in hand watering and foliar applications
Reducing energy use	<p>In progress - unable to measure directly</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore grants available for on-site renewable energy production
Increasing biodiversity & wildlife	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Simple Biodiversity and Wildlife Plan is in place</i> • <i>Increased native planting area at WLA</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor beneficial insect and bird life 2. Maintain native plantings 3. Remove invasive autumn olive trees at WLA
Increasing biological activity in soils and growing media	<p>In progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Soils and media were monitored throughout the season, the biology is good but still has room for improvement.</i> • <i>Vermicastings were used when transplanting all lettuce and other vegetable seedlings.</i> • <i>The addition of perennial plants and no till changeover in greenhouse beds led to reduced plant health</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to monitor biological activity in all media and soil 2. Applied for SARE grant to study best soil management practices for coir based media and to increase nutrient density in leafy greens 3. Experiment with adding different types of compost in growing beds

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

Non-Food Alliance KPIs	Status (2022 Notes)	2023 Actions
Reduction in use of off-farm sources of growing media, nutrients and amendments	In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Use of compost made on-farm for growing microgreens was very successful and reduced the use of coconut coir significantly</i> • <i>Trials to reduce solid amendments in greenhouse beds were largely unsuccessful due to salt build up from liquid fertilizers and stratification of solid amendments.</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applied for SARE grant to study best soil management practices for coir based media and to increase nutrient density in leafy greens 2. Experiment with adding different types of compost in growing beds
Increasing use of local suppliers and materials	In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>65% of supplies purchased (by value) was from either regional or local vendors</i> • <i>Spending at local vendors increased from 37% to 49%</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate source of raw materials on local, regional or further scale. 2. Trial locally sourced growing media in one new outdoor table bed
Increasing Community Farm Stand use and Food Bank donations	In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>\$381 was donated to local Food Banks in 2022</i> • <i>New location at Post Office attracted significant donations</i> • <i>Fresh produce donated to the Farm Stand at Groovy Greens reduced in volume compared to 2021.</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact churches and other community groups regarding Farm Stand.
Increasing public education benefit	In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mini workshops were offered during the May Open House with limited uptake.</i> • <i>No separate classes were offered in 2022 due to time and space limitations</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repeat Open House and offer mini workshops
NEW for 2023 Increase nutrient density in leafy greens grown	In progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BRIX is an imperfect measure of nutrient density in plants. Leafy greens grown at Groovy Greens are consistently low in BRIX.</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applied for SARE grant to study best soil management practices for coir based media and to increase nutrient density in leafy greens (Nutrient density will be measured different on-farm tools and by laboratory methods)

Groovy Greens, LLC

2022 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

Benefit Director Statement

Although not required of Benefit Companies, Groovy Greens, LLC has opted to elect a Benefit Director, whose annual statement appears below:

STATEMENT OF BENEFIT DIRECTOR

By continuing to use organic growing methods and soil management practices, use low-impact packaging and repurpose materials, reduce waste, provide healthy, delicious, and nutrient-dense food to local food banks and families, and foster community spirit, Groovy Greens, LLC is *having a positive impact on both society and the environment.*

Sincerely,



Lynn Prior
Benefit Director

4/27/2023