



## IMPACT CIRCLES:

### OUR PARTNERS IN ACTION

Founded in 2002, **Sustainable Path** offers community-based, collective giving opportunities. This model offers a vibrant and hands-on approach for your giving back to your community!

Join Us Today!

Together we will strategically redirect our collective assets to benefit our Puget Sound community.

### WHAT IS COLLECTIVE GIVING?

Collective giving—pooling one’s dollars with a circle of colleagues, friends, family, and acquaintances, in order to support nonprofits in a strategic manner—is redefining the way donors and nonprofits view philanthropy.

It’s a new order of business best described as philanthropy with wide rather than deep pockets, capturing the smaller donations of many individuals and leveraging them into larger, more transformative grants.<sup>1</sup>

### AS A MEMBER OF A SUSTAINABLE PATH IMPACT CIRCLE, WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU?

- **Proactive Giving:** You have the chance to be directly and personally involved with applicants, and to learn exactly what your pooled dollars will fund.
- **Enjoyable work:** Perhaps the biggest draw, you meet others with similar interests and learn from one another through your involvement in grant-making activities.
- **Tangible Impact:** You will strategically leverage your individual contribution and make a tangible difference in advancing solutions to some of the most significant and interconnected challenges facing our region.
- **Democratic structure:** Each Impact Circle Partner has an equal say in decision-making and collective votes determine the funding recipients.
- **Continual Learning:** You will have a number of opportunities to continue learning about the topic (brown bag lunches, site visits, etc.) throughout the grant cycle.
- **Annual Gathering:** At the end of each 12 month Impact Circle grant cycle, Sustainable Path will host a gathering of grantees and partners from all the Impact Circles. This will be an educational opportunity to further learn about the issues, the strategies to find solutions and learn about the work that has been accomplished with the grant funds. You will be invited to share your experience and together we will evaluate the overall Impact Circle process.

<sup>1</sup> “Collective Giving: Democratizing Philanthropy Through Collaborative Funding,” Beth Burrell and Mary Broach, October 2012 appeared in [Philadelphia’s Social Innovations](#)

## HOW IT WORKS

Throughout the year, Sustainable Path will host one or more **seminars** on various climate change topics. These topics are selected by a seminar committee (open to new members) and approved by Sustainable Path's Board. At the seminar, we will issue a **"Call to Action"** and host a follow-up informational gathering on how to join an Impact Circle focused on that particular seminar topic.

As an Impact Circle Partner, you contribute at least \$1,250 to join and participate hands-on in a grant round and cast your vote.

- Minimum of \$1,000 contribution for grant awards
- One-time annual \$250 (minimum) for partnership contribution\*
- Participation may range from one or more grant cycles in a 12-month period. Each Impact Circle Partner decides how involved he/she would like to be. *It's up to you!*
- Each Impact Circle determines its lifespan. As a group, you may choose to end meeting after your grant(s) have been awarded, or continue to periodically meet to continue learning.

The events we host are structured to create opportunities for people to connect and learn from each other, and from local non-profit organizations.

We keep our administrative costs low by primarily relying on volunteers and tapping into the talent pool of our partners and supporters. We do not hold galas or fundraising benefits.

*\* \$250 is a one-time annual contribution. If you choose to participate in another Impact Circle, a new minimum contribution of \$1,000 is required for that Impact Circle's grant cycle.*

- Sustainable Path will match, up to \$40,000, the grant pool funds generated by an Impact Circle.
- We anticipate that any one grant award will range between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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