



Economic Democracy Advocates

2019 Annual Report

What Is EDA's Story?

How Do We Realize It?

Let's start with the big picture. Historians tell us that every civilization goes through long-term cyclic change, as evidenced by higher and lower patterns of resource availability, economic growth, social stability and the well-being of its people. Over the past few centuries, as world population boomed, societies have experienced increasing economic production and consumer demand that benefited many people, although certainly not all.

In the history of civilization, this stage of wealth creation was always followed by an era like the one that's befalling us now — a period of economic stagnation, sociopolitical instability and population decline. As our wheel of fortune trends downward and our familiar structures crack and decay, the central question is: how will society prepare for what lies ahead?

We have no consensus framework to enable us to understand or reverse what's taking place. Without a new worldview, we have little capacity to restore or even to live within this fragile system. Ancient societies knew that without a reliable cultural narrative, people who seek to protect the ways of the past will fight to the death with those seeking solutions for the future.

Where there is no vision, the people perish

Proverbs 29:18

EDA's view is more simple. To address the imbalances that plague our ecosystems and socioeconomic systems, we must create equality and sustainability to meet the needs of everyone. Determining the amount of

resources available within a regional area to satisfy its people's needs will enable communities to work together and better manage their resources in a fair and long-term manner. What could be more important than that?

This is why Economic Democracy is a ***new story***. It's never been realized on a large scale because the tale has never been told with a broad enough scope for it to work. So, how do we tell this story today to turn it into reality?

Consider the old adage:

As you sow, so shall you reap

The phrase applies the idea of planting and harvesting to human justice. In the ethical realm, it means that past actions have future consequences. This folk wisdom has been a cornerstone of social justice through the ages.



But somehow the root meaning of this metaphor has been lost. By overemphasizing the production of goods instead of people's need for

them, the modern world has turned our publicly shared connection between planting and harvesting into one of corporate ownership and private control.

Not only does this create social inequality, since commercial profits are ascribed higher value than our biological needs. We're also learning that the natural world will not supply consumer demand until we correlate its energy, yields and environmental quality directly with these basic needs.

Bottom line: if we fail to become more responsible for equitably safeguarding the cultivation of our resources, there will be far less bounty for societies to reap and our standards of justice will fall into rapid decline.

EDA's programs in **R**esearch, **E**ducation, **A**dvocacy and **P**lanning are focused on citizen action for economic equality and resource sustainability.

We're uniting people around a mission that combines both the ethical values and ecological constraints of this new epoch that we're entering.

Economic Democracy is our story. Advocacy is how we realize it. And this is why we're called Economic Democracy Advocates.



EDA and EDA Foundation

EDA comprises two organizations:

Economic Democracy Advocates is a 501(c)(4) civic organization. Donations to EDA advance its advocacy efforts which include lobbying and are not tax-deductible.

EDA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, exists in parallel with EDA to support our research and education efforts. Gifts to the EDA Foundation are tax-deductible.

We have separate 990's for each organization.

Employer Identification Numbers:

- Economic Democracy Advocates: 81-2030926
- EDA Foundation: 20-1227974

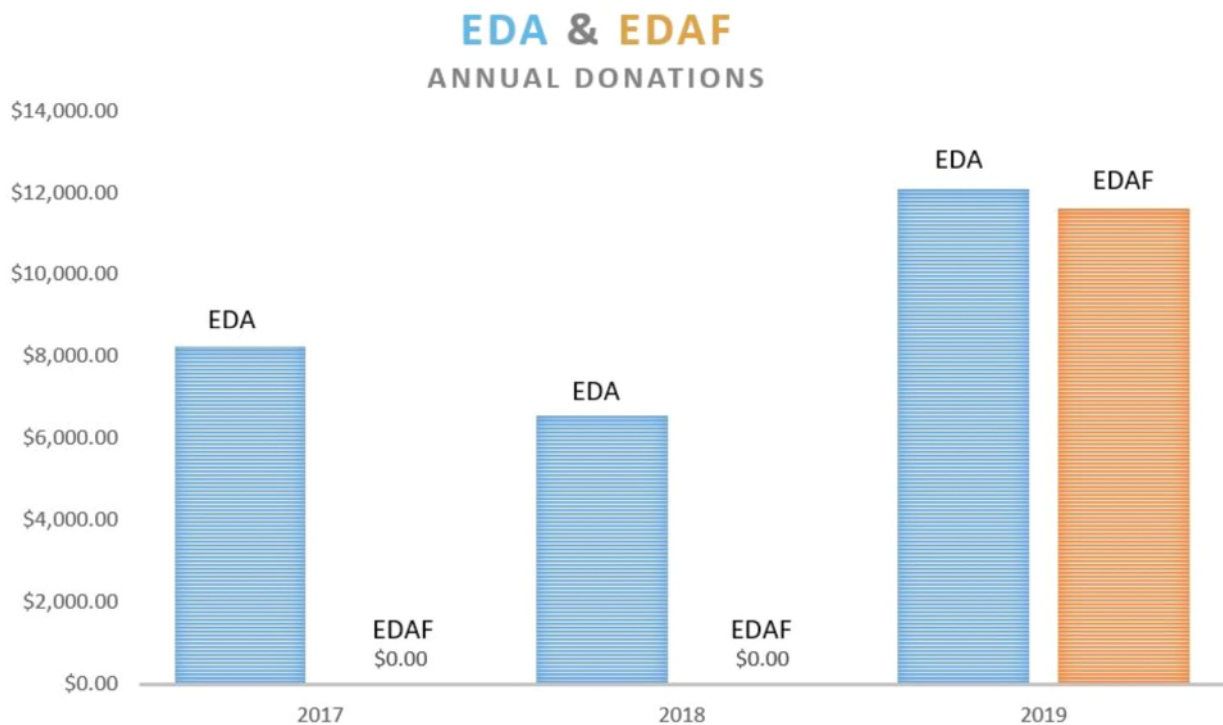
Thank you to our generous donors. We are so appreciative and could not do this work without you.



EDA Financial: Donations

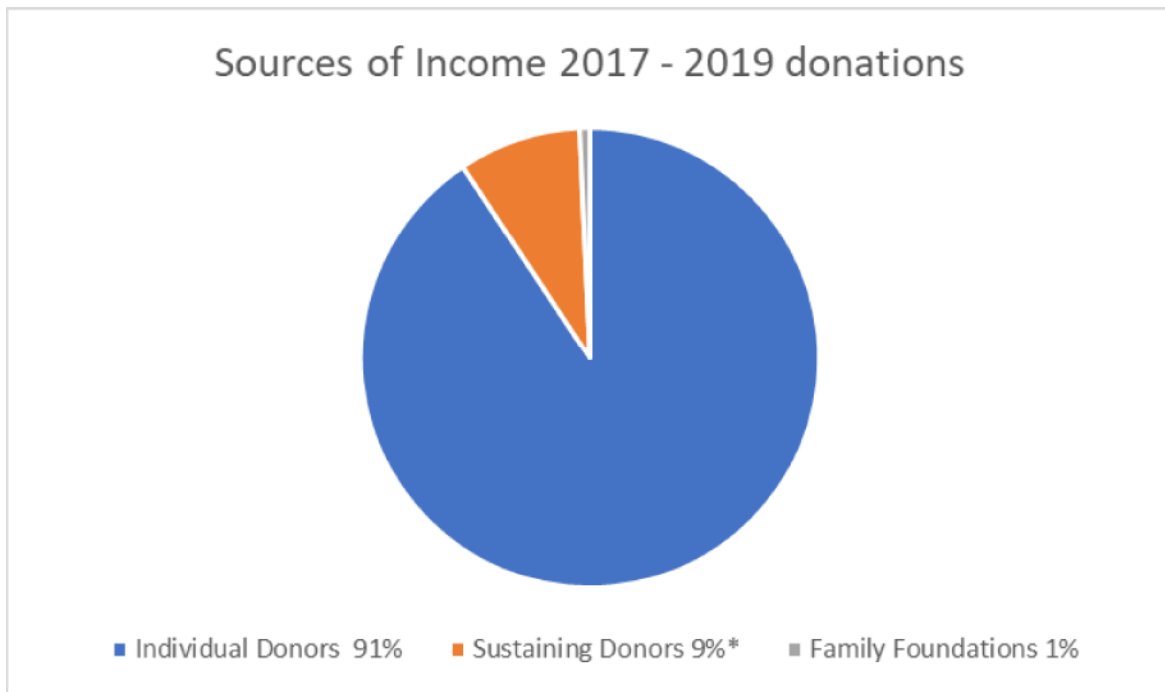
EDA and EDA Foundation continue to benefit from the generosity of our supporters who consist of individual donors and family foundations. We are particularly grateful to our sustaining donors whose regular donations make the ongoing work possible.

EDA & EDAF Consolidated Donations



Notes:

EDA Foundation commenced operations in April of 2019



*Repeating monthly donations

We certify that the financial information reported herein was prepared from the books and records of EDA and EDA Foundation without an independent audit. See our financials, 990 forms, etc., at the links below.

Jonathan Stoller
EDA Treasurer

EDA Financial: Financial Documents

- ❖ [EDA Financials](#)
 - [2019, 2018, 2017](#)
- ❖ [EDAF Financials](#)
 - [2019](#)
- ❖ [IRS Documents](#)
 - **EDA**
 - [Form 990-N](#)
 - [2019](#)
 - [2018](#)
 - [Notice of Intent Letter](#)
 - **EDA Foundation**
 - [Form 990-N, 2019](#)
 - [IRS Determination Letter of Tax-Exempt Status](#)

From the Managing Director

2019 was a pivotal year for EDA. We began to define and track our goals and evaluate the results for future planning. Here's what we counted:

- 13,291 visits to our website
- 4,734 likes on Facebook
- 190 watersheds covered in the CA legislative bill that we sponsored
- 90 highly engaged people experiencing advocacy training in 3 well-received training sessions
- 65 members of the public and EDA attending our annual conference
- 62 colorful maps showing the ecological self-sufficiency of US regions
- 51 EDA members
- 16 informative presentations delivered at the conference
- 15 attractive support materials that highlight economic democracy
- 12 EDA members visiting the offices of CA State Assembly members Buffy Wicks and Rob Bonta to engage their support
- 5 youth scholarship recipients sharing their unique perspectives
- 3 screenings of our new video, *Economic Democracy*

It's interesting to look at these numbers now and think about how we can use them to expand our programs next year. But I'd be the first to point out that there are some things that can't or shouldn't be quantified. I mean, how do we measure friendship, love or meaning? Quantifying things can make them easier to improve, which is important; but there are fundamental principles that guide our behavior that can also improve results and foster group cohesion.

So, here's our secret. We track specific, measurable goals out of our deep curiosity, courage and concern for society and the environment.

Calibrating equality and sustainability enables us to *discover and understand ourselves while working together*. This is how we grow as individuals, as an organization and as a society.

That is why we count on our members to help us change the things that are important to you. And that is why you can count on us to build upon these goals, knowing that *it's not only about getting results but the overall awareness and relationships that we generate in the process of doing it*.

James Quilligan
EDA Managing Director



Photo: EDA's 2019 Annual Conference attendees, Oakland, CA

From the President

This past year the Board of Trustees met weekly for ninety minutes. The underlying theme of 2019 was working together in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation. To say that individual members were stretched very thin in their commitments to EDA on top of very full lives is an understatement. We are, of course, an almost entirely volunteer organization, so the Board operates on that same basis and tries to temper our expectations for ourselves and all who work for EDA in that light.

From our perspective, a great deal was accomplished throughout the organization, not without shortcomings, but entirely upon the efforts of many who believe in our mission and gave selflessly of their time. We are deeply grateful for all of that.

In terms of specific achievements, this year we:

- Conducted a self-evaluation of our performance during 2018
- Monitored financial goals, income and expenditures
- Supported and advised the Conference Planning Committee
- Heard and responded to regular reports from the Managing Director
- Completed the complex 501c3 registration with the IRS
- Initiated registration with States for fundraising
- Appointed a person to oversee our membership drive and elections
- Discussed and refined EDA's essential message while reviewing ways of presenting it
- Responded to suggestions from our Mediation Body on ensuring that all general meetings are open to all active members and that the reports of our working teams are available to all active members
- Conducted the election of Secretary and ratification of Appointees by Active Members
- Initiated 'Town Hall Meetings' led by our At-Large Trustees

- Appointed a Chief-of-Staff and Communications Director
- Initiated the drafting of a Code of Conduct and a Policies and Procedures Manual
- Reviewed a Strategic Plan for 2020 developed by our new Planning Team

Most importantly, we continued to build an organizational culture of goodwill and dedication that serves the high calling of sustainable and equitable resource management.

George Catlin
EDA President



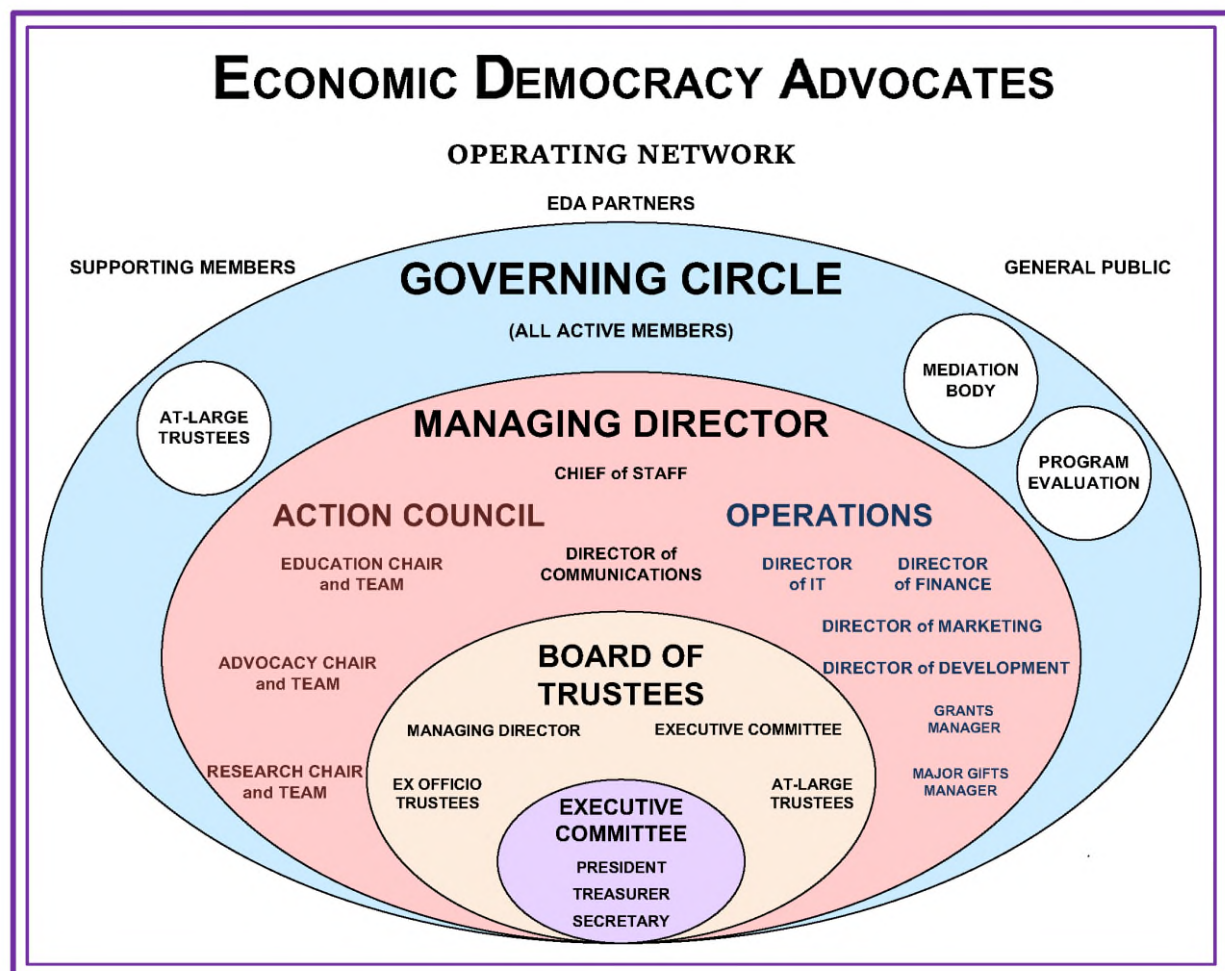
Photo: EDA members lobbying at Assembly Member Rob Bonta's office, Oakland, CA

EDA's Operating Network

Inspired by the work of Buckminster Fuller, whose concepts including spaceship earth and syntropic law have influenced much of our thinking on economic democracy, we built our Operating Network with these principles in mind, depicted below.

This 'mothership' graphic, constructed by James Kolb and James Quilligan, portrays our business cooperative with a minimum of administrative hierarchy and an optimum of member participation.

EDA's constitution and core programs are now on the ground. In 2020, we will mobilize our Operations, launching the greater body of EDA upon its intended path.

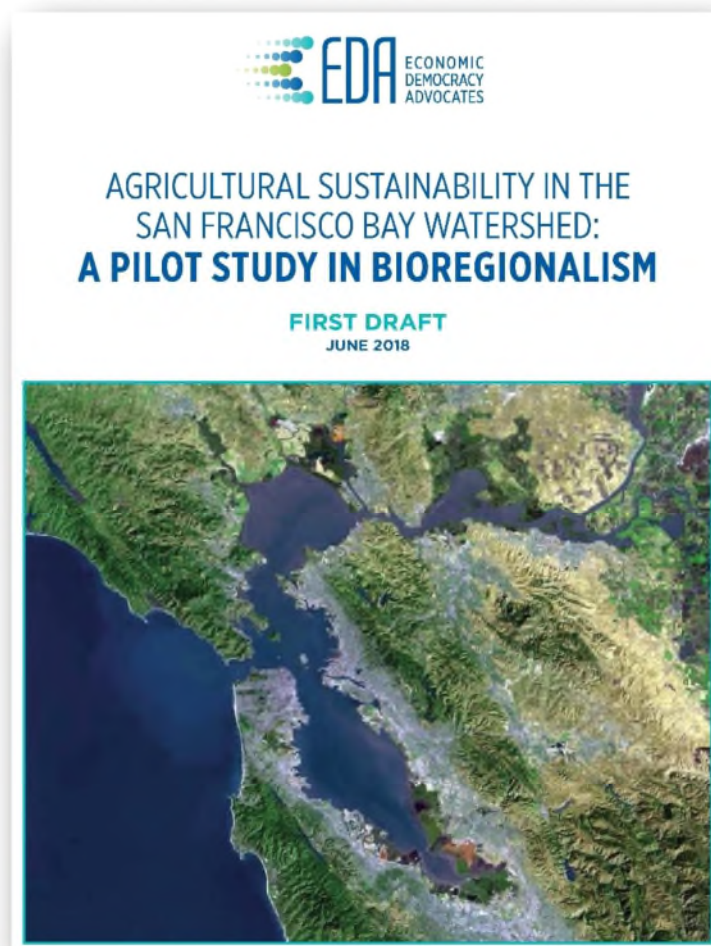


What **Our EDA Teams** Did In 2019

The four areas we are presently involved in are:

Research **E**ducation **A**dvocacy **P**lanning

1. Research



Cover of Pilot Study: This report led to the development of GIS maps by our Research Team to illustrate variances in the regional carrying capacity of food, water and energy

To provide background information on food, water, energy and bioregionalism, we:

- Developed relationships with regional partners and identified legislation relevant to their needs
- Developed mapping capacity to tell the story of regional self-sufficiency to legislators more graphically and pictorially
- Focused on Counties, US Congressional Districts, State Senate and State Assembly/Representative Districts for lobbying purposes
- Enabled the Advocacy Team to lobby legislators on resource equality and sustainability
- Expanded our reach in California and North Carolina

2. Education



Photo: Student panel at the 2019 Annual Conference, Oakland, CA

To cultivate popular literacy in economic democracy, we:

- Created content for website, social media, blog, press releases and monthly newsletters
- Supported conference activities, including conducting a presentation
- Developed educational content, including infographics and curriculum
- Created EDA Pathway chart

3. Advocacy



Photo: EDA advocates lobbying at Assembly Member Buffy Wicks' office, Oakland, CA

To empower people to take action on specific legislation for resource democracy, we:

- Created a Google Slide program for advocacy training with slides and videos
- Developed an advocacy training program manual that can be adapted to various audiences
- Equipped trainees with knowledge and engaged their values
- Motivated citizens to lobby effectively and build lasting relationships with their elected representatives
- Organized advocacy teams together with regional partners

4. Planning



EDA will be developing a management planning and coordinating team in 2020 tentatively titled, **Integrative Management Planning And Coordinating Team**, aka **IMPACT**. It will prioritize and manage the business aspects of our Action Council and Operations Departments, involving:

- Chairs of Education, Advocacy and Research Teams
- Directors of IT, Finance, Marketing and Development Departments
- Managing Director, Chief of Staff and Director of Communications



We are proud to have gotten to where we are in a relatively short time on limited resources. This would in no way have been possible without the tremendous support of our dedicated team of tireless volunteers, to whom we owe an enormous debt of gratitude. They have put in countless hours to collectively create the vision and take powerful action toward a more just and sustainable world.



“The best way
to predict the **future**
is to **design** it”

~ *R. Buckminster Fuller*

<https://EconomicDemocracyAdvocates.org/>



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