

Daily Acts Organization

For nearly 25 years, Daily Acts has helped Petaluma grow stronger, greener, and more connected through everyday actions that create powerful community ripples.

A garden can be more than a pretty place to pull weeds and grow tomatoes. For Daily Acts, a garden can become a classroom, a gathering spot, and the first brave step toward believing change is still possible.

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Daily Acts was founded in 2002 by Trathen Heckman, but the seed was planted years earlier. In 1996, Trathen left the corporate world in search of deeper purpose. Inspired by Bioneers and the Permaculture Institute of Northern California, he witnessed a simple backyard lawn transformed into a thriving edible ecosystem. It was practical, beautiful, and quietly radical. It showed him that a garden was never just a garden. It could empower people, influence policy, and turn overwhelming problems into grounded action.

After 9/11 and the loss of his mother, Trathen channeled grief into purpose and founded Daily Acts to create positive, transformative change. Nearly 25 years later, that spirit still runs through the organization's work.

Daily Acts is a holistic environmental nonprofit with a very human approach to climate resilience. Instead of asking people to save the world in one dramatic sweep, it helps them begin where they are: in yards, schools, parks, neighborhoods, and daily choices. The work is big, yes, but it is also refreshingly doable.

Through workshops, presentations, tours, and a free online library of webinars and how-to guides, Daily Acts teaches skills like lawn replacement, greywater systems, rainwater harvesting, garden design, and soil health. It is climate education without the doom spiral. **You show up, learn something useful, meet neighbors, and leave feeling like your small patch of the world matters.**

Their direct-install programs bring that mission closer to home. Through Land Resilience Partnership programs, Daily Acts and its partners provide low- to no-cost design and installation of climate solutions, including rainwater catchment, rain gardens, greywater systems, lawn conversions, habitat planting, and shade trees. A recent grant from the California Department of Water Resources supported 62 projects at under-resourced schools, parks, and homes in Petaluma. Together, those projects now conserve more than two million gallons of water annually and have created 1.5 acres of habitat for local pollinators.



SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT
Small daily actions, rooted in community, creating greener neighborhoods and lasting local change.



That is what makes Daily Acts so compelling. The impact is not abstract. It shows up as shade on a hot day, flowers for pollinators, less runoff during storms, healthier soil, more resilient landscapes, and neighbors who feel less alone in caring about the future.

Since 2002, Daily Acts has educated and engaged more than 78,000 people through workshops, tours, talks, and installation events. It has mobilized tens of thousands of actions through community campaigns and played a leadership role alongside local partners in Petaluma's climate work, including helping establish the city's climate emergency framework and catalyzing the Petaluma Climate Action Commission.

Still, ask the people who attend Daily Acts programs what they love most, and many will not start with numbers. They will talk about connection: working side by side in a garden, hearing inspiring stories, learning hands-on skills, and leaving with a sense of accomplishment. **Simple things can be powerful when they are done together.**

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Daily Acts is guided by a mission to inspire transformative action that creates connected, equitable, climate-resilient communities. Its values, called the “4 Rs,” are Reverence, Ripples, Relations, and Resilience: start with your heart, be the change, nurture community, and persevere with joy. It is the rhythm of the work.

Daily Acts is easiest to get to know by showing up. The organiza-



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tion hosts learning events, volunteer opportunities, and Garden Steward Workdays on the first Friday and third Tuesday of each month at demonstration gardens around Petaluma. Community members can also support the work through donations, sponsorship connections, newsletter sign-ups, or eScrip cards at Petaluma Market or Oliver’s Market. Sign up or learn more by visiting dailyacts.org. Their motto says it best: “Every Action Makes a Ripple.” In Petaluma, those ripples have become gardens, partnerships, policy change, and a reminder that the future is not built only by experts or officials. **Sometimes, it starts with neighbors, soil, water, hope, and one good action at a time.**



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