

2023 Impact Report

Sustainability is at the core of how we make business decisions at BriarPatch.

That's why in 2020, we set ambitious goals focusing on aspects of our operations that make the greatest environmental impact. We're continuing to make progress towards achieving our 2025 Goals—and lessening our footprint in other areas as well, like water conservation.

OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS



ENERGY

Reach 100% renewable energy



PACKAGING

Reduce use of in-house single-use plastic



REFRIGERATION

Reduce use of hydro-fluorocarbon refrigerants



WASTE

Divert 100% of food waste



CARBON NEUTRAL

Produce net zero greenhouse gas emissions

There's more to this story - visit briarpatch.coop/sustainability



We want to do as much as possible to help create a healthier planet... all by 2025.

2023

In Review

Chris Maher, **General Manger**



In 2023, BriarPatch achieved the long-planned transformation into a multi-store organization with the opening of the new store in Auburn. All the tenacity, determination and dedication to the vision of expanding our cooperative endeavors was realized on August 10th when we welcomed 1,000 people to our store and felt their elation as they experienced the fruits of our hard work and the results of their support for the first time.

The strength with which our existing store has run so successfully is now being parlayed on a greater scale. We have learned over many years that the value of community, offering amazingly high-quality foods and prioritizing people over profit leads to success both within and beyond our financial performance. While this transformation has created some expected disruption, we see the beginnings of this success. Total sales increased 11% overall and more than 30% by month, year over year. Net income was negative as expected and planned for, and the number of new owners skyrocketed to 1,495.

It is worth noting that our extensive study and planning has paid off. While the Co-op will need to navigate through the challenges of negative net income coupled with continued disruptions in the market, our industry and society at large, this is a time of transition. We are strongly positioned to focus and improve where needed and to leverage and grow in our areas of proven success.

BriarPatch has proven itself a vital pillar in the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City and those surrounding them. We are poised to grow that positive impact in the Auburn region and in our greater watershed as the Co-op matures.



Fuyu Persimons from Johansen Ranch



The strength with which our existing store has run so successfully is now being parlayed on a greater scale.

Rachel Berry, Board President



2023 will always be remembered in our co-op history as the year we expanded into a multi-store business! After nearly 50 years of operation in Grass Valley, the opening of the Auburn store is an incredible milestone in our co-operative development, creating the foundation for a more sustainable and resilient business model for our future. It's been inspiring to hear from our new members in Auburn – some who are brand new to the cooperative model - about why they love BriarPatch and have become loyal owners and shoppers.

Opening a new store in Auburn was no small feat in the wake of a global pandemic, and the board is incredibly grateful for the hard work, expertise, and dedication of our staff – they are truly amazing!

Big thanks also go out to YOU, and all of our member/owners, as your support helped create more access to local and organic foods, more opportunity for our producers to expand their businesses, and more impact in our shared values of sustainability and community care. We are grateful to be in partnership!

Impact By The Numbers



PRODUCE NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS

5-Year Goal

NET
Zero

Measured in Tons CO₂e

2023

17%



17% reduction from 2022 in greenhouse gas emissions.



6,397

Total number of Chargepoint EV charging sessions in 2023

324%

Increase (in use/charging sessions) since 2021



WATER CONSERVATION

We achieved this reduction by working with our filtration partner on water efficiency measures for our water filtration system. The same efficiencies were implemented in Auburn to conserve a precious California resource.

2023

28%



28% reduction in water use since 2021.

SAVING OVER

1 million

GALLONS PER YEAR!



REDUCE HFC REFRIGERANTS

99%

We achieved our goal of installing a natural refrigeration system in Auburn. The CO₂ system essentially eliminates more than 99% of refrigerant emissions.

BriarPatch's Auburn location features a state-of-the-art natural refrigeration system that drastically lowers our climate impact. Traditional refrigerants, such as those used in our Grass Valley location and 98% of grocers across the country, have 4,000 times the global warming potential of natural refrigerants. The natural refrigeration system will cut our overall climate impact by more than 50%.

5-Year Goal

50%

50% reduction in hydro-fluorocarbon refrigerants added

2023

30%

30% reduction from 2022.



REDUCE SINGLE USE PLASTIC IN-HOUSE

5-Year Goal

40%

40% reduction of in-house plastic packaging, 5-year goal is 22% of total single use packaging dollars spent

2023

32%

We've reduced our total spend on single-use plastic so we are over half-way to our goal in total reduction.



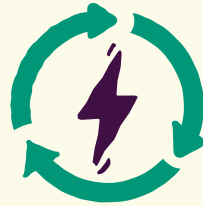
2.2 tons

2.2 tons of customer plastic film recycled by Rotary Club Volunteers.

We started the Trex plastic film recycling program at Auburn.

We provide complimentary recycling to our customers for hard-to-recycle items like batteries and plastic film.

Impact By The Numbers



RENEWABLE ENERGY

5-Year Goal

100%

Measured in percent of store energy produced by solar.

2023

51.3%

We're over halfway to our goal of 100%.



WASTE REDUCTION

We offer a variety of package-free options in bulk and produce so shoppers can choose to refuse packaging and bring their own bags, containers and jars. We also offer a wide selection of reusable bags and containers for purchase in store. We encourage shoppers to bring their own cup to the deli for all beverages and reusable utensils for deli prepared foods.

2023

64%

28% reduction in water use since 2021.



5-Year Goal for Food Waste Diversion

100%

No food in the trash is our goal.

87.5 tons

ORGANIC WASTE TO LOCAL FARMS FOR COMPOSTING

258 tons

DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

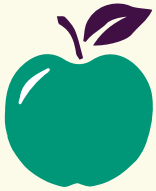
5-Year Goal for Overall Waste Diversion

80%

Annual waste diversion by weight.



Stronger Communities



134,418 lbs
APPLES SOLD

\$13,441.80 GIVEN TO COMMUNITY & SCHOOL GARDENS

Through our Apples for Gardens program, we give 10¢ per every pound of apples sold to community and school garden infrastructure.



20,122.37
VOLUNTEER HOURS

THAT'S ABOUT 2.5 YEARS!

Our PatchWorks Volunteer Program was started in 2020. Recognized by Progressive Grocer and the National Grocers Association for being a force for good in community service and local impact by building strong, mutually beneficial relationships with nonprofits and our owner-volunteers.



159
LOCAL SUPPLIERS

36 FARMS DIRECT-TO-CO-OP

In 2022, we expanded our definition of local to include our watershed. briarpatch.coop/local



23
LOCAL FARMS

CO-PLANNED CROP PRODUCTION

Our symbiotic relationship means a stronger relationship with our local farmers, and better products for our customers.



28,000 lbs
FOOD DONATED

KEEPING IT OUT OF LANDFILL & SUPPORTING HUNGER RELIEF

Food went to Interfaith Food Ministries, Auburn Interfaith Food Closet, Gathering Inn Auburn, Food Bank of Nevada County, and Hospitality House.



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BIPOC GROUPS

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

We directly supported BIPOC-led groups in a variety of ways, and work continuously to increase awareness and support.



Jeremy Mineau, Super Tuber Farm



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Chris Maher, General Manager