

A barn owl with white facial feathers and dark eyes is perched in a field of yellow buttercup flowers. The owl's body is covered in brown and white mottled feathers. The background is a soft-focus field of similar yellow flowers.

2024 Annual Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, AMANDA STURGEON

Dear Friends and Supporters.

I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable progress we made together in my first full year as CEO of the Biomimicry Institute.



2024 was a year of deep alignment, powerful collaboration, and laying the groundwork for a new phase of growth and impact. I am incredibly proud of what our team and partners achieved—and more excited than ever for what lies ahead.

We began the year by joining our sister organizations—Biomimicry 3.8, the ASU Center for Biomimicry, and Biomimicry for Social Innovation—for a powerful immersion in Baja California, Mexico. Together, we envisioned a vibrant and connected global biomimicry ecosystem that could accelerate the adoption of nature-inspired solutions at scale. This energy carried through to a joint strategic planning retreat with our board and staff—held in Santa Cruz during a literal atmospheric river—where we aligned around a renewed vision: to create a regenerative and nature-positive world inspired by nature's genius.

That collective vision came to life in our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, which envisions the Institute as a hub for connection, collaboration and co-creation as we disrupt industries and sectors towards a Nature Positive and Regenerative future. We launched the plan at New York Climate Week with two incredible in-person events that brought together friends, funders, and future collaborators. It was an unforgettable moment, full of warmth, connection, and shared purpose.

Throughout the year, I had the opportunity to reconnect with nature and re-ground myself in life's principles. After more than two decades of applying biomimicry through

architecture and design, I participated in a Biomimicry Immersion in Costa Rica—hosted by Biomimicry 3.8—alongside our board member Mary Davidge. Immersed in cloud forests, estuaries, and rainforests, I found renewed inspiration to center nature's wisdom in all that we did. We also reached several program milestones during the year. Our multi-year Design for Transformation (Nature of Fashion) project—focused on addressing fashion waste through biomimicry—completed its first phase. Originally launched by my predecessor Beth Rattner, this groundbreaking effort brought together teams from Europe, Ghana, and the U.S., and we were excited to begin phase two in early 2025.

Our Ray of Hope Accelerator prize evolved into a 6 month accelerator enabling a deeper connection and support to nurture a new generation of nature-inspired startups. In September, I joined the cohort for their annual nature immersion in the New York State Catskills and witnessed firsthand the transformative potential of these changemakers. We captured the impact the Ray of Hope program has had by releasing our five-year impact report and held the inaugural Ray of Hope Demo Day in early 2025 with over 200 attendees. We remain deeply grateful to the Ray C. Anderson Foundation for their continued support. Another exciting milestone was the launch of the AskNature Hive, our new online learning and community platform. Designed to foster connection, curiosity, and collaboration, the Hive quickly became a dynamic space for our global network to engage and grow, with a monthly speaker conversation series, book clubs and more. The enthusiastic response confirmed what we had suspected: the world was ready for a more connected, welcoming and accessible biomimicry community space and for further dialogue around the ever growing [AskNature](#) content. .

We concluded the year on the global stage at COP16 in Colombia. I had the honor of presenting alongside Janine Benyus and engaging with partners across sectors to explore how biomimicry could support the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework. These conversations were critical in shaping our international work for the coming year.

Looking ahead, I remain energized by the opportunity to further connect and support a growing community—online, in person, and through deep collaboration rooted in nature's brilliance. Together, we can build a future where humanity thrives in harmony with the natural world.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your belief in our mission, and your commitment to a more regenerative future.

With gratitude,
Amanda Sturgeon





Our 10-Year Strategy Launch

The Biomimicry Institute created and launched a new vision and 10-Year Strategy in 2025, marking a major milestone in our mission to elevate biomimicry as a transformative solution to climate change, biodiversity loss, and the disconnection between people and nature. Read the strategy [here](#).

Launched on September 25 during New York Climate Week, our team was graciously hosted by COOKFOX Architects. During the event, our strategy was featured in a keynote from our CEO, Amanda Sturgeon, who shared our bold vision for a regenerative, nature-positive future. A dynamic panel followed, featuring Nicole Miller (Biomimicry 3.8), Tony Goldner (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures), Chui-Lian Lee (Werewool), and Lauren Yarmuth (NoVo Foundation), each offering powerful perspectives on the urgent need for nature-inspired innovation.

We are on a path toward realizing our vision of a nature-positive, inclusive, and regenerative world—one inspired and guided by nature's genius. We're making meaningful progress by stepping onto larger stages, collaborating with more partners, and expanding both the volume and variety of content we create and share.



BIOMIMICRY
INSTITUTE



Biomimicry Storytelling

Award Winning Impact

In 2024, our short film “5 Innovations Shaping the Future, Inspired by Nature” was honored with Best Short Film at the Environmental Film & Screenplay Festival.

This compelling video features five animated shorts from our Ray of Hope Accelerator Video series, each spotlighting a nature-inspired innovation from our Ray of Hope Accelerator Cohort. Together, they showcase how biomimicry is driving bold, sustainable solutions across industries.

A New Website for a Bold New Chapter

Last year, we launched a redesigned website to reflect our next era of impact. Thoughtfully crafted with curiosity and care, the new site brings our evolving vision to life; one rooted in scaling nature-inspired solutions to meet today’s greatest challenges.

As we step into this next chapter, our new website offers a clear window into how we’re advancing biomimicry to address biodiversity, reforge our connection with nature, and disrupt harmful linear systems. It also reflects our growing commitment to equity and collaboration by uplifting both traditional Indigenous knowledge and scientific insights to run nature’s wisdom into widespread action.



Digital Footprints: A Visual Snapshot of Our Reach

Total Impressions:
19,679

Flowers and bees use differences in electrostatic charge to effortlessly transfer pollen

[WHAT IS BIOMIMICRY](#)[ABOUT US](#)[NEWS & UPDATES](#)[JOIN THE COMMUNITY](#)[EXPLORE INNOVATION](#)[GET INSPIRED](#)

It's time for solutions that get us **back in sync with nature**

Nature's strategies, honed over millennia, can teach us how to solve today's biggest problems.

Total Views: 546,756



Total Impressions:
10,117

[asknature](#)[COLLECTIONS](#)[BIOLOGICAL STRATEGIES](#)[INNOVATIONS](#)[FOR EDUCATORS](#)[ABOUT](#)[DONATE](#)

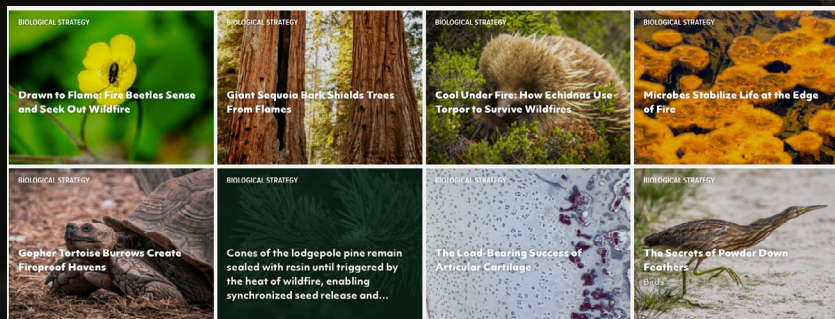
It's time to
ask nature.

Total Views: 3,179,708



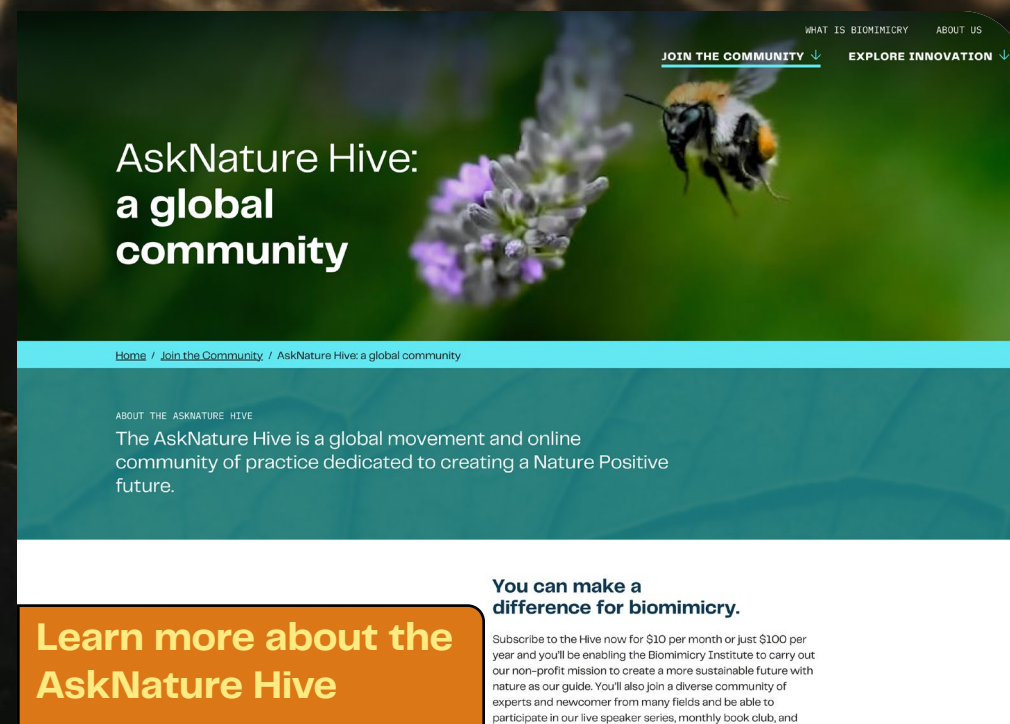
AskNature: Community, Connection, and Innovation

2024 marked a major leap in community-building with the launch of the AskNature Hive, our new online platform for connecting and supporting biomimicry practitioners. We expanded AskNature's reach and depth by initiating the development of content revealing the wisdom embedded in Earth's bioregions, and in support of various discoveries and innovations as they were announced to the world. At the same time, we pioneered new applications of AI—testing automatic translation tools and creating efficient systems to upload large batches of AI-assisted draft content directly into our publishing workflow. Our creative outreach also found new life offline: our popular Instagram overlay series led to a custom illustration installation in the children's learning room at the Cleveland Botanical Garden.



Launching the AskNature Hive:

From an idea hatched in the early summer, by fall we had researched, planned, and launched a whole new online community platform to support anyone interested in or engaged with biomimicry. Anchoring content to a monthly live conversation series, we spoke with long-time friends of the org and forged exciting new connections. With hundreds of members joining in just the last few months of the year, we're thrilled to be kicking off this new era of engagement with AskNature's content and community.





AskNature: Inspiring with Nature's Genius

Collections



HELPING KIDS BECOME "NATURE MASTERMINDS"

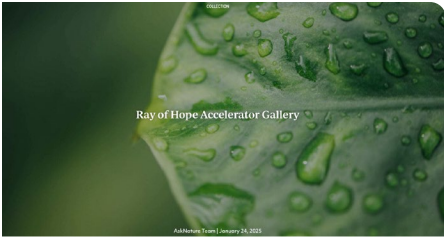
Strategies



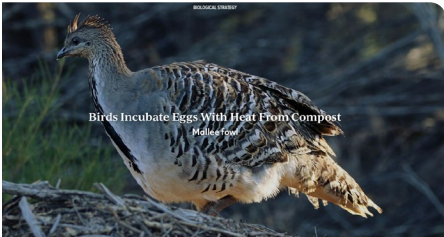
GRANULES ANCHOR ADHESIVE PROTEINS ON WEBS



GRADIENT ZONE ANCHORS TENDON TO BONE



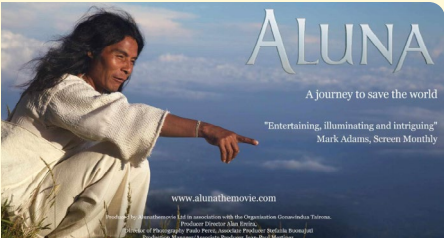
RAY OF HOPE ACCELERATOR GALLERY



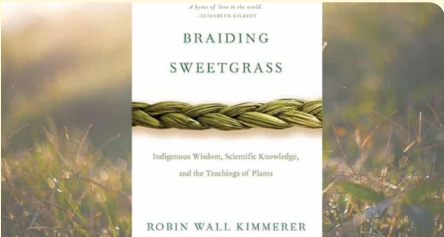
BIRDS INCUBATE EGGS WITH HEAT FROM COMPOST



Launching the Hive



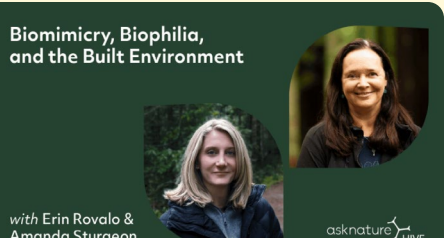
4TH FRIDAY LITERATURE CLUB: ALUNA - AN ECOLOGICAL WARNING BY THE KOGI PEOPLE



4TH FRIDAY LITERATURE CLUB: BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



LIVE CONVERSATION WITH JANINE BENYUS: BIOMIMICRY FOR IMPACT



LIVE CONVERSATION WITH ERIN ROVALO AND AMANDA STURGEON: BIOMIMICRY, BIOPHILIA, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



LIVE CONVERSATION WITH JOHN WARNER: LEARNING FROM NATURE'S CHEMISTRY



Innovation: Advancing Nature-Inspired Solutions

2024 was a transformative year for the Ray of Hope program and team. We evolved the 10 week program associated with the Ray of Hope Prize into the full-fledged 6 month Ray of Hope Accelerator, amplifying our ability to support nature-inspired startups from around the world. To mark the beginning of this new chapter, our team released a 5-Year Impact Report that highlights the incredible progress our community of entrepreneurs has made, the challenges we've tackled, and the path ahead.

Ray of Hope Accelerator

The Ray of Hope Accelerator welcomed 10 visionary, nature-inspired startups into the 2024 cohort, each receiving \$15K in non-dilutive funding to fuel their early journey. Together, we gathered momentum; first at our inaugural New York Climate Week x Ray of Hope Accelerator event, where we welcomed our vibrant network of mentors, investors, and alumni, then in nature, where our founders forged lasting bonds during a transformative 4-day retreat in the Catskills.

We also evolved our program pillars to include a 2-month Impact Sprint, giving startups the tools to build sustainability, and measurable impact into the heart of their businesses and team culture. In collaboration with Prime Coalition, we helped four teams map their potential for tangible climate impact using CRANE, a cutting-edge potential emissions modeling tool.

This work is more than acceleration, it's community, conviction, and a shared commitment to a nature positive future.



Ray of Hope 2024 Alumni Updates



Sparxell (cohort 2023) raised an additional \$150,000 from Triple S Venture to their previous \$3.2M seed round and announced a new collaboration with Parley for the Oceans.



SpotLESS Materials raised \$1.56 million in a seed round.



Coral Vita secured \$1.03M in grant funding from the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Multilateral Investment Fund.



Mussel Polymers received \$1.77 million from the DoD.



Mycocycle formed a partnership with Tarkett, a worldwide leader in innovative and durable flooring and sports surface solutions, to transform old flooring into new biobased material.



Infinite Cooling is working with EDF to reduce water consumption in nuclear power plants.

Design for Transformation

The Design for Transformation (D4T) initiative concluded its initial phase 1 in 2024 by launching a dedicated website to share key findings.

Phase 1 Key Findings:

It also underscored that waste, currently a financial and environmental burden, holds potential as a valuable nutrient or industrial building block when designed for decomposition, emulating nature's fundamental principle that "waste equals food"

Unlike nature's materials, which are designed to break down and build anew, human textiles often resist natural processes, becoming pollutants.

Phase 2 Funding:

Phase 2 has been successfully funded by the Laudes Foundation to build on this work allowing the initiative to take these pioneering pilots beyond proof of concept.

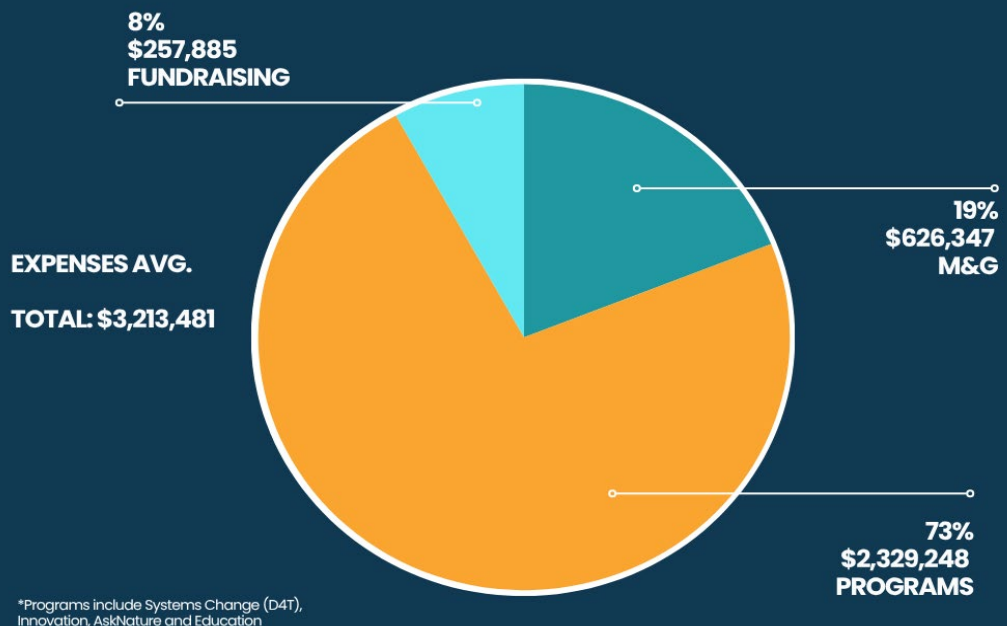
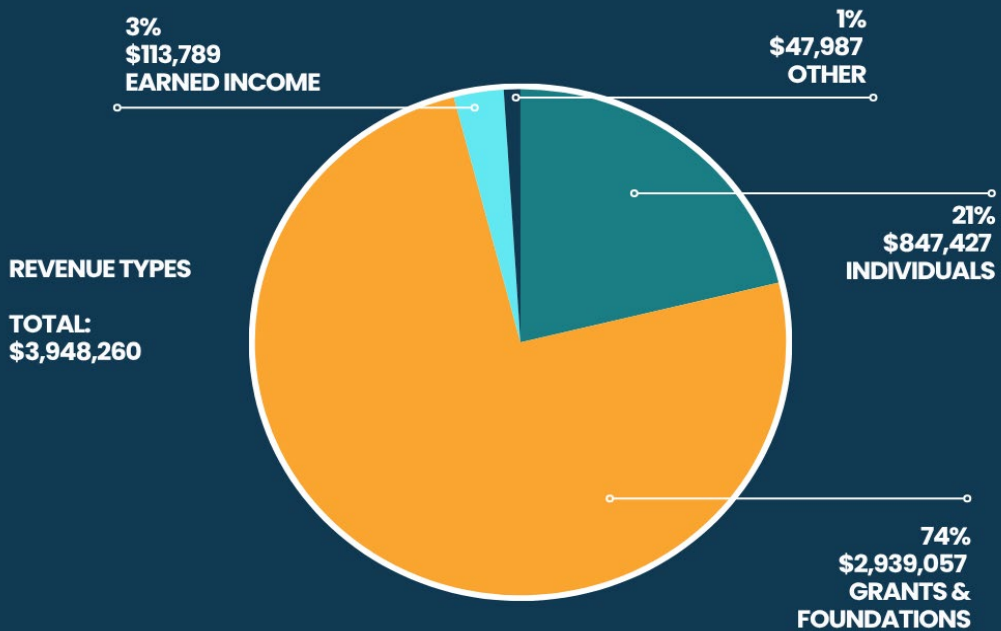
Looking Ahead to 2025:

Looking ahead to 2025, D4T is focused on scaling these decomposition technologies, demonstrating their capacity to convert unwanted textiles into safe, biocompatible feedstocks, and amplifying these transformative stories to catalyze a regenerative fashion system. The project is poised to accelerate momentum by developing a robust narrative strategy and establishing a comprehensive network of partners to amplify these stories, and publishing initial case studies showcasing the impact of our pilot projects.

2024 Financials

Revenue: \$3,948,260

Expenses: \$3,213,481



Board:

Janine Benyus, Co-founder
Kent Snyder, President
Mary Davidge, Secretary
Erin Rovalo, Treasurer
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To all of our supporters —

Thank you. Your belief in the power of nature to inspire bold, regenerative solutions is what makes our work possible. Together, we are creating a world where nature's wisdom is embedded in every design, decision, and system. We are honored to be on this journey with you.

Our 2024 Donors

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