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Form 990-EZ

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Short Form

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds, organizations that operate one or more hospital facilities, and certain controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990 (see instructions)

All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000 at the end of the year may use this form

The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

OMB No 1545-1150

2012

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2012 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2012, and ending 12-31-2012

Check if applicable

Address change

Name change

Initial return

Terminated

Amended return

Application pending

C Name of organization

Center for Sustainable Economy

D Employer identification number

36-4541988

E Telephone number

(505) 986-1163

F Group Exemption Number

Number and street (or P O box, if mail is not delivered to street address)Room/suite

1704 B Llano St Suite 194

City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4

Santa Fe, NM 87505

G Accounting Method

☒Cash

☐Accrual

Other (specify)

H Check

☐

if the organization is **not** required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

I Website:

N/A

J Tax-exempt status (check only one)—

☒501(c)(3)

☐501(c) (insert no)

☐4947(a)(1) or

☐527

K Check

☒

if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization or a section 527 organization **and** its gross receipts are normally **not** more than \$50,000 A Form 990-EZ or Form 990 return is not required though Form 990-N (e-postcard) may be required (see instructions) But if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, line 25, column (B) below) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

\$ 44,900

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	15,891
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	29,009
	3	Membership dues and assessments	3	
	4	Investment income	4	
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	0
	c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
	6	Gaming and fundraising events		
	a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
	b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b	0
Expenses	c	Less direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c	0
	d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d	
	7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a	
	b	Less cost of goods sold	7b	0
	c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	
	8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8	
	9	Total revenue. Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	9	44,900
	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11	Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	25,481
Net Assets	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	2,105
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	2,225
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	26,151
	17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	55,962
	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	-11,062
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	18,889
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 18 through 20	21	7,827

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat No 10642I

Form 990-EZ (2012)

Part II

Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II

	(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	18,889	22	7,827
23 Land and buildings		23	
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)		24	
25 Total assets	18,889	25	7,827
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)		26	
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	18,889	27	7,827

Part III

Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose?
Promoting Economic Sustainability

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title

28 Sustainability On-Line - see attached description
(Grants \$ 8,395) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here

28a

29 Analyzing the Benefits and Costs of Natural Resource Management Decisions - See attached description
(Grants \$ 11,192) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here

29a

30 Public Interest Economics - See attached description
(Grants \$ 36,375) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here

30a

31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O)
(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here

31a

32 Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)

32

55,962

Part IV

List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (see the instructions for Part IV)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
Richard Mietz Director	2 00	0		
Susan Leopold Director	2 00	0		
John Talberth President	10 00	24,000		

Form 990-EZ (2012)

Part V

Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V) Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part V ☒

		Yes	No
33	Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O	33	No
34	Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O (see instructions)	34	No
35a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?	35a	No
b	If "Yes," to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	35b	No
c	Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	35c	No
36	Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36	No
37a	Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions ☐ 37a		
b	Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	No
38a	Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?	38a	No
b	If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved . 38b		
39	Section 501(c)(7) organizations Enter		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	0
b	Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	0
40a	Section 501(c)(3) organizations Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under section 4911 ☐ _____, section 4912 ☐ _____, section 4955 ☐ _____		
b	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	No
c	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958 . . . ☐ _____		
d	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization ☐ _____		
e	All organizations At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e	No
41	List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ☐ _____		
42a	The organization's books are in care of ☐ John Talberth Telephone no ☐ (505) 986-1163 Located at ☐ 1704 B Llano St Suite 194 Santa Fe, NM ZIP + 4 ☐ 87505		
b	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ☐ _____ See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts .	42b	No
c	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the U S ? If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ☐ _____	42c	No
43	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 —Check here ☒ and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ☐ 43		
44a	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	No
b	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? <i>If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ</i>	44b	No
c	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	No
d	If "Yes," to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? <i>If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O</i>	44d	No
45a	Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	No
45b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ (see instructions)	45b	No

		Yes	No
46	Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I		No

Part VI

Section 501(c)(3) organizations only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI ☐

		Yes	No
47	Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II		No
48	Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E		No
49a	Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?		No
49b	If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?		No

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization If there is none, enter "None "

(a) Name and title of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
NONE				

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization If there is none, enter "None "

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000.

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **NOTE:** All Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A ☒ Yes ☐ No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here		2013-08-13	
	Signature of officer	Date	
Paid Preparer Use Only	John Talberth President		
	Type or print name and title		
	Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date
	Firm's name	Firm's EIN	
	Firm's address	Phone no (505) 986-8608	
May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ☒ Yes ☐ No			

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990EZ)

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
Center for Sustainable Economy

Employer identification number
36-4541988

Part I

Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box)

- 1

☐

A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**
- 2

☐

A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E)
- 3

☐

A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**
- 4

☐

A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state _____
- 5

☐

An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II)
- 6

☐

A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**
- 7

☐

An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).** (Complete Part II)
- 8

☐

A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)
- 9

☒

An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III)
- 10

☐

An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety See **section 509(a)(4).**
- 11

☐

An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h

a

☐

Type I

b

☐

Type II

c

☐

Type III - Functionally integrated

d

☐

Type III - Non-functionally integrated
- e

☐

By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2)
- f

☐

If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g

☐

Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

(i)

A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?

(ii)

A family member of a person described in (i) above?

(iii)

A 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?
- h

☐

Provide the following information about the supported organization(s)

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1 - 9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U S ?		(vii) Amount of monetary support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

Part II

Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3						
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						

Section B. Total Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4						
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						
11 Total support (Add lines 7 through 10)						
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage						
14 Public support percentage for 2012 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))		14				
15 Public support percentage for 2011 Schedule A, Part II, line 14		15				
16a 33 1/3% support test—2012. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization						▶
b 33 1/3% support test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization						▶
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2012. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization						▶
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization						▶
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions						▶

Part IIISupport Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	78,840	29,439	38,032	57,254	15,891	219,456
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose	21,702	33,167	1,850	3,060	29,009	88,788
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						0
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						0
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						0
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5	100,542	62,606	39,882	60,314	44,900	308,244
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						0
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						0
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						308,244

Section B. Total Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2008	(b) 2009	(c) 2010	(d) 2011	(e) 2012	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6	100,542	62,606	39,882	60,314	44,900	308,244
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	5	6	4	4		19
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						0
c Add lines 10a and 10b	5	6	4	4		19
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)				58		58
13 Total support. (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)	100,547	62,612	39,886	60,376	44,900	308,321
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here 						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage		
15 Public support percentage for 2012 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	99.980 %
16 Public support percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16	99.980 %

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage		
17 Investment income percentage for 2012 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	0.010 %
18 Investment income percentage from 2011 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18	0.010 %
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2012. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization 		
b 33 1/3% support tests—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3% and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization 		
20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions 		

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Explanation

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or to provide any additional information.
▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

OMB No 1545-0047

2012

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
Center for Sustainable Economy

Employer identification number
36-4541988

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16 4	Other Expenses 4	Postage/Freight \$66
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16 3	Other Expenses 3	Bank charges \$136
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16 2	Other Expenses 2	Telephone & network \$1060
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16 1	Other Expenses 1	Consultants \$11296
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16 1005	Other Expenses 1005	Travel \$13593
		Client Note 1 - Allocation of Costs Between Programs, Program Descriptions, and Program Accomplishments in 2012 Program I Public Interest Economics (65%)Typically, both public and private decision makers lack all the information necessary for determining whether or not a proposed program, policy, or project is in the public interest Our economists help expose the true costs of these decisions on the public as well as benefits that may be important but are difficult to quantify through standard economic analysis techniques Our expertise includes non-market valuation, benefit-cost analysis, regional modeling, and other techniques needed to provide a more complete picture of overall economic impact Accomplishments in 2012 include Aichi Biodiversity Goals A Global Cost AssessmentIn 2010 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 2020 with the purpose of stimulating a diverse array of activities by governments, NGOs, business leaders, and other stakeholders to halt the loss of biological diversity In recognition of the critical importance of biological diversity for livelihoods, wellbeing, health and the genetic foundations of modern agriculture the parties agreed to an ambitious set of 20 targets many of them time bound and quantitative for slowing, halting, and reversing biological diversity loss associated with degradation of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems throughout the world Collectively, these are known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets The costs and benefits of achieving these targets are of keen interest to policy makers as they begin the process of implementing programs of work and on-the-ground activities Choosing the most cost effective means of implementation is critical given the overall political and economic environment of fiscal austerity facing governments in both developed and developing countries In May of 2012, the U.K. Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) entered into an agreement with Center for Sustainable Economy (CSE) to develop a rough order of magnitude estimate (ROM) of the resource requirements of meeting three of the Aichi Targets 5 (related to halting the loss of wetlands), 8 (reducing pollution harmful to biodiversity), and 14 (protecting ecosystem services relied upon by traditional communities) We researched the costs and benefits of 17 distinct conservation and restoration programs such as global clean up of marine debris, dramatically reducing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff into marine dead zones, pulling subsidies for new large dams, adopting "no net loss" standards for wetlands, and restoring coral reefs While the economic costs of such programs may average \$154 to \$465 billion per year through 2020, economic benefits - such as increased commercial fish landings and public savings from reduced subsidies - are likely to offset all these costs and in many cases exceed them As a result, significant global resources allocated to biodiversity preservation represent sound economic investments in the future The Public Benefits of Spending on Environmental Goods and ServicesFor New York-based Demos, CSE prepared a chapter in a forthcoming book establishing a framework for measuring the broad public benefits associated with federal, state, and local spending on environmental goods and services We also suggest a longer-term research agenda for valuation Closing the Inequality Divide - A GPI AnalysisIn 2009, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley adopted the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) as a new measure of economic wellbeing in the state CSE and Refining Progress pioneered the GPI's latest iteration, which Maryland now uses Together with Institute for Policy Studies, CSE used Maryland's GPI to address the issue of inequality In Maryland, as elsewhere, inequality of wealth, income, and opportunity has been steadily increasing for decades and thwarting genuine economic progress in many ways Our analysis asked the question "If Maryland returned to a level of income equity achieved in 1968 - its historical best - how would that affect the GPI?" Our analysis found that a return to a level of income equity achieved in the late 1960s would have the effect of doubling the average household income of the lowest quintile from \$15,000 to nearly \$30,000 and generating nearly \$49 billion in economic benefits to the state each year in terms of increases in the value of personal consumption expenditures We also found that additional spending by low and middle-income families could add another \$10 billion Finally, depending on how many household livelihoods improve, another \$7 billion in benefits could be generated through lowered costs of crime, family changes, underemployment, and vehicle accidents and increased benefits from consumer durables and higher education Program II Analyzing the Benefits and Costs of Natural Resource Management Decisions (20%)CSEs economists help expose the true costs associated with both public and private sector decisions to deplete natural capital, exacerbate sprawl, and increase air and water pollution Conversely, we document the true benefits associated with protection of natural areas, ecological restoration, and other sustainable land management activities Because many of these benefits and costs are not experienced as market transactions, we employ a range of techniques for assessing non-market impacts in addition to more traditional techniques such as regional modeling that consider effects on jobs and income To inform our economic analysis, CSE works with biologists, environmental planners, hydrologists, and geographic information specialists to document the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of intensive land uses such as logging, grazing, mining, oil and gas leasing, road building, and urban development We also work with counties, cities, and businesses to calculate and identify measures they can take to reduce their ecological footprint Accomplishments in 2012 include Izembek Road Project Net Public Benefits AnalysisCongressional legislation passed in 2009, P.L. 111-11, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act Legislation, directed the FWS to analyze a proposal for a new road through the heart of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and for the Secretary of the Interior to determine whether or not the proposed road is in the public interest In order to fulfill the terms of the legislation, a proper benefit-cost analysis (BCA) is necessary, as it is crucial for determining whether or not the proposed action is in the public interest and represents a good balance between competing resource values (i.e. benefits exceed costs), creates demonstrable rather than speculative socio-economic benefits, and rests on a solid economic foundation In 2010, CSE and The Wilderness Society partnered to monitor the environmental impact statement process as it evolves and have provided three sets of comments thus far including comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) released in the spring of 2012 In our DEIS comments, we conclude that the Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS) failure to conduct and incorporate a BCA into the DEIS has led the agency to erroneously conclude that the project is beneficial from an economic standpoint A cursory examination of benefits and costs indicate that costs are likely to exceed benefits by a huge margin a factor of 7 in the most optimistic scenario, a factor of 13 more likely In the fall of 2012, the FWS released its final EIS and sided with CSE and TWS concluding that the road project would likely not be in the public interest As of this writing, Congressional intervention may force FWS to revisit this decision, but it remains a solid conservation victory for now Program III Sustainability On-Line (15%)Center for Sustainable Economy has teamed up with award-winning web developer Kinga Dow Productions and other non-profit partners to provide interactive tools for government, business, and educators seeking to utilize the vast power of the web to promote sustainable decision making and advance environmental education We offer four major categories of on-line solutions footprint calculators to promote green products, sustainability challenges for branches, franchises, or chains, on-line courses and interactive lesson plans, and sustainability reporting and company green pages Accomplishments in 2012 include Ecological footprint quizCSEs ecological footprint quiz at myfootprint.org remains one of the worlds most popular on-line sustainability tools This year, we continued to reach millions of users worldwide We also granted licensed versions of the quiz for Princeton University and Everready Battery Inc. for use in their sustainability campaigns for Earth Day