Supporting renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, local food, conservation & healthy communities since 1974.

Our Mission

We are a statewide grassroots organization, helping communities build a more sustainable Montana for all. We focus on the sustainable energy and ag/local food system sphere, creating spaces where future food system leaders and inspired community models flourish.

2020 Programs Focus

Food Systems

- Cottage Foods Education
- 21 Week Racial Equity in the Food System Challenge
- Jane Kile Scholarship
- MT Food Providers Project (MFPP)

Montana Food Economy Initiative is providing funding and mentorship support to 12 community-led solutions for building more resilient local food systems across MT.

As of December, with its partners, MFPP has distributed:

- 7,175+ pounds of organic wheat flour & grains
- 208 bottles of organic safflower oil
- 968+ summer produce bags
- 1,100+ pounds of grass-fed beef
- 2,925+ pounds of organic lentils
- 790 pounds of pastured goat
- 40 pounds of goat cheese
Community Engagement

- Grow MT Food Policy Coalition
- MT Food Matters: The Food System Story Collaborative

Oral History Project on AERO’s 45 years of impact. Archived 12 interviews with founding and early members, staff, and partners on the MT Memory Project (mtmemory.org)

Abundant Montana Directory upgraded to enhance and expand functioning as a state wide hub for local food access.

369 Listing partners
250 Listings updated in 2020

Network Weaving & Education

EXPO 2020 was AERO’s first entirely virtual Expo.

27 Independent events
4 Film Screenings
135 Individual registrants
FREE to participants

Outcomes achieved: engagement, new ideas, collaborations and connections

2020 Financial Summary

Income Sources
- Memberships: $28,983
- Program Grants: $88,224
- Sponsorships/Support: $9,542
- License Plates: $5,800
- Contributions: $66,791

Total Income: $225,354

Total Expenses
- Admin: $16,752
- Fundraising: $20,940
- Programs: $171,713

Total Expenses: $219,395

Net Income: $6,959

Expenses Breakdown
- Admin: 8%
- Program: 82%
- Fundraising: 10%