
Subject: A Message from Executive Director Kemba Shakur

From: Urban Releaf (Urban_Releaf@mail.vresp.com)

To: oaklandreleaf@yahoo.com;

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 10:03 AM



Urban Releaf



From the Director:

During the past year, we have been successful at organizing, building community and promoting urban forestry. We are currently working on several critical initiatives: **the Climate Action Plan, restoring the Miller Library to an Urban Forestry Sustainability Center, and working with the Food Justice**

Community around access to healthy food. We more than ever want to collaborate with other organizations and institutions to bring about a real change as it relates to our environment and quality of life in urban areas. Quality of life means to us improving the living conditions for current residents and long term inhabitants by focusing on sustainability - not displacing those residents and replacing them with more affluent constituencies. Instead of harassing, profiling, and incarcerating our youth, we need to invest in our young people, which will create a better future for all.

Environmental issues aren't going away anytime soon. The state of

California has mandated, under AB32, the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020. What this means for Oakland is the need to plant between 750,000 and 1 million trees, to bring the city's tree canopy up to the state requirement of 40%; currently, Oakland's tree canopy stands at just 12-15%. We strongly feel that our record of community involvement and engagement makes Urban Releaf the best-positioned urban forestry organization to carry out this plan.

Our long-term goal is to make Oakland the Green city it claims to be, and can be. We are making strides forward in advancing public policy, environmental awareness, youth jobs, and research. Join us as we implement these initiatives by collaborating, supporting, becoming a member or volunteering with the Urban Releaf team. Together we can make a difference.

In Community,

Kemba Shakur



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