

Say Yes

When you make a will, you create the future you want

By T. (Tom) Cashman Ávila-Beck

Amira Althany's Greenpeace story starts, as many have, with a simple yes.

"I was in Boulder where I met a canvasser asking for donations, and I said yes. I don't give very much, but I believe the work Greenpeace does is important," said Amira. "That's why Greenpeace is a cause I give to monthly, and is in my will."

Where some put off thinking about putting together a will, especially people as young as Amira, she saw making a will as a way of ensuring the causes she most cared about – the care and safety of young people and the environment – would be part of the legacy she'd leave behind.

"I was going to be traveling alone abroad and I thought, in case anything happens, I want to be responsible for those decisions," said Amira. "Giving is one way I can help further the really important work being done by others, and give back to future generations."

Born in Saudi Arabia's capital city of Riyadh, Amira was six when she moved with her mother and sister to the much smaller city of Durango, CO. Today, she calls Denver home, and she works for Fivetran, an automated data integration company.

Being a lover of nature, when this tech professional needs some time to reflect, you can find her in one of her favorite places, Estes Park, near Rocky Mountain National Park. Amira's dedication to and appreciation of the environment goes way back. "My father is Saudi and my mother is American," she said. "My folks met in San Francisco while my dad was studying there. I grew up in a home where love and giving was very



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important." Amira found her father regularly feeding the homeless and picking up trash on the streets. Her mother too had a philanthropic heart, and gave her time to important social causes like the American Red Cross.

It was in a high-school philosophy course that Amira started to discover how the contrasts of her childhood – the Christianity of her mother's family, the Muslim faith of her father's – were shaping her beliefs around social, cultural and environmental paradigms.

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Say Yes (cont.)

“If you think of every conflict in the world, wars over belief and religion, disagreements over social issues, none of it matters if we don’t have clean drinking water, clean air to breathe and land where we can grow food,” she said.

That sense of purpose led Amira to co-found a green team while she was working for Zoom, the video platform that became part of many of our homes during the pandemic. “We were growing rapidly and I thought, ‘What does that mean for our carbon footprint?’ We were using plastic utensils even when we had a dishwasher. There were coffee pods and ink cartridges and other things that could be recycled or reused and I thought, ‘there has to be a more sustainable way, a way to

cut down on our waste’.”

She later brought her green team approach to her new role as the Sales Enablement Program Manager at Fivetran, where she helped organize learning sessions for her colleagues about composting and recycling.

Amira is also quick to share things that she’s done to green her life at home as well. Simple and clever tricks like using the timer on her phone to help her get used to limiting her time in the shower. Having a recycling bin that is much larger than the trash can so that you think twice about what you’re about to throw away, and considering what things could be reused or repurposed.

“Most important of all of these,” Amira said, “is to educate. Have

conversations with your friends and family about our environment, and what they are doing to care for our blue boat home.”

T. (Tom) Cashman Ávila-Beck is a Development Special Projects Manager at Greenpeace.

Tell us your story

We invite you to tell us *in your own words* how you care about our environment, what made you get involved in caring for the planet, or why you have chosen Greenpeace as a beneficiary in your estate plans. Please write to YourStory.us@Greenpeace.org for more information. Please write “Tell Us Your Story” in the subject line.

End-of-Year Season of Giving

Maximizing your impact and your personal savings in 2021

As the final months of 2021 are fast approaching, you may be thinking about end-of-year giving, and about supporting the health and sustainability of our Earth with a gift to Greenpeace. We’re proud to share with you two powerful, tax-savvy giving options to maximize your savings and your impact on our world.

Donors age 70.5 or older are eligible to give tax-free gifts directly from their IRA, whether or not they itemize. These gifts are excluded from your annual gross income and reduce your overall tax burden, and make an immediate impact on vulnerable species and ecosystems. We have a free tool to help you complete the paperwork in 10 minutes or less. Get started at FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund.

Or, if you don’t meet those age requirements but have appreciated assets, you can donate stock directly to Greenpeace. By donating appreciated stocks, you’ll avoid paying capital gains and can deduct the full current value on your returns, regardless of the price the stock was purchased at! Use our free tool to make the process easier than ever. Transfer stock at FreeWill.com/Stocks/GreenpeaceFund.

Consider one of these tax-saving gift options as you plan your end-of-year gifts to Greenpeace.

Tax Deductible Giving

Greenpeace Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions to Greenpeace Fund are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under tax laws.

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For questions or more information, please contact Rogelio Ocampo at 202-319-2413, rocampo@greenpeace.org or see our website at greenpeacefund.org.

Thinking of a Gift of Real Estate?

Most people don't think of using real estate when they consider making a charitable gift, but property such as a house, apartment, condominium or vacation home constitutes a significant percentage of many people's assets — and can also be an important philanthropic planning tool.

But before I go on, you should first discuss your plans with your financial advisor or attorney.

As with most charitable gifts, real estate gifts can be tax deductible and may offer a number of personal and financial planning advantages.

A current, outright gift of real estate would allow your gift to make a difference now and could generate significant tax and other savings.

Leaving real estate to a charity through your will or living trust is an efficient way to make a significant future gift without impacting your current living arrangement.

Another option is to transfer property to a charitable trust. When the property is sold, no capital gains tax will be due. You and/or someone you name can receive income based on the full value of the property for life, or for a set number of years, and when the trust terminates, the charity of your choice will receive what remains.

In some cases, it is possible to give your home and continue to live in it for the remainder of your lifetime. This arrangement is called a retained life estate.

There are many benefits to giving real estate, and there are a number of factors to consider, such as: the type of property, your tax situation and your personal objectives. All these will determine which strategy is most beneficial in your situation.

When considering a gift of real estate, keep the following in mind:

- The property must be readily salable.
- Mortgaged property calls for special attention to the way in which it is given.
- To meet IRS requirements, you will need to obtain an appraisal from a qualified appraiser.
- The exact tax savings depends on the type of gift and your specific situation.

Please discuss your real-estate plans with your financial advisor or attorney to determine if a particular gift will work for you and the charitable organization.

Provided for informational purposes only, and should not be considered legal, accounting, or other professional advice.



Red-footed boobies find a temporary home on the bow of the Rainbow Warrior during a mission in the Pacific to bear witness to the deep-sea mining industry.

GREENPEACE FUND

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GREENLEGACY

Greenpeace's Biannual Newsletter



Recognized by Charity Navigator as having demonstrated excellent accountability and transparency.



Awarded "Best in America Seal" by Independent Charities of America. Of the one million charities operating in the USA, less

than two thousand have been awarded this prestigious seal.

A manta ray is seen in the cold upwellings off Nusa Penida Island, Indonesia, while more and more single-use plastics are swept along the coast as Indonesia struggles to control its addiction to plastics.