



Our mission is to design and manufacture nature based concrete products restoring oceanic ecosystems around the world.

→ (WINNER) - 2018 MIT/Solve – Advancing Solutions to Global Challenges

→ (WINNER) – Virginia Resilience Innovations (RISE) Coastal Community Challenge

Contact

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Industry

Cleantech
Climate Industry
Coastal Mitigation/Resilience
Habitat Restoration
Sustainable Aquaculture
Energy Industry

Innovation

Grow Oyster Reefs LLC (GROW) is a woman owned business founded in 2015 that possesses patent-pending, scalable concrete reef building substrate products that dramatically increase the productivity of oyster reefs, improving water quality and aquatic ecosystem services including carbon sequestration and shoreline retention on a global scale.

GROW is also developing coral reef restoration products for scientific research in the lab, for the coral nursery and transplanted in the wild — building blocks for coastal ecosystem regeneration.

GROW operates a manufacturing facility in Norfolk, Virginia, a design and prototyping studio in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a mobile marketing unit covering the entire US coastline.

Year founded

2015

Development stage

Startup

Executive Summary

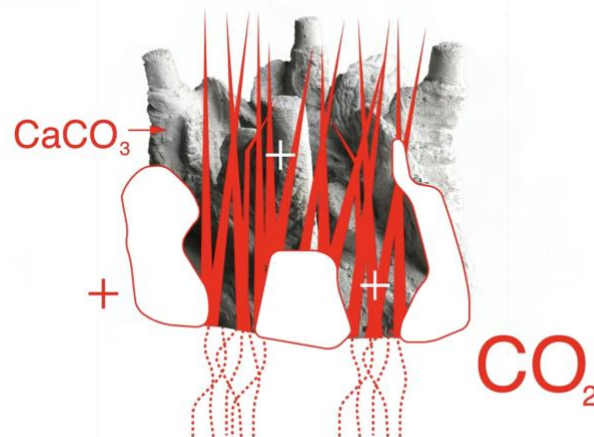
Currently our coastlines are disappearing at an alarming rate due to the increased effects from climate change and other environmental impacts. The oyster, a keystone species, which is now in decline 85% from the 1850's, has been cleaning water and holding back coastlines with its reefs around the world for thousands of years. The market supporting the current oyster reef restoration effort is growing rapidly due to the invaluable role oysters play in mitigating the effects of climate change by increasing coastal resilience. Our vision is that all underwater infrastructure supports human and aquatic life symbiotically.

GROW provides a range of integrated concrete and technology products that work to support reef-building NGO's, municipal stakeholders as well as residential coastal property owners with the means to protect their land, clean surrounding waters, and create a more resilient and healthier ecosystem.

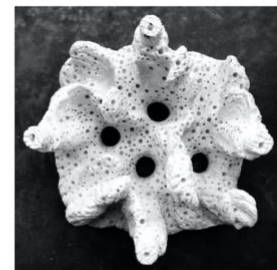
Opportunity

GROW's environmentally influenced products are all made from our specialized patent-pending concrete mixture that carefully matches that of the oyster shell providing early stage nutrition to the growing oyster. GROW uses this concrete to make all of products. They are designed by mimicking natural systems to produce high yields and continuous growth. Our first line of products are portable and easily installed without the use of heavy equipment and are assembled into natural looking systems that can stretch thousands of miles of shoreline and be hung hundreds of feet into the water column.

Our products **increase carbon sequestration** by accelerating coastal resilience using natural materials engineered to facilitate a living shoreline.



1



2



Our technically integrated line of coastal reef restoration products and services provide a scalable solution for communities working to strengthen their coastal resilience in the face of the increased effects of climate change.



Reef Disk



Reef Tile Unit



CORRT Reef Tile Interlocking System for Natural & Versatile Configurations

Awards & Partnerships

- **2018 MIT/Solve WINNER:** Innovative tech solutions that have the potential to significantly and positively impact the world.
- **2019 Virginia/RISE awardee:** GROW was awarded \$285,000 in Virginia's search for solutions that can solve urgent problems faced by coastal communities, creating meaningful job growth and stimulating investment in the region.
- **Existing Channel Partners:** Grow's expanding list of internationally and nationally recognized partners include The Nature Conservancy (the largest oyster reef builder in the world), MIT, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, Eastern Yacht Club, Lynnhaven River Now, and The Elizabeth River Project.

Leadership

- **Evelyn Tickle;** CEO, Founder, Inventor - More than 20 years of experience in the concrete fabrication industry. Invented GROW Oyster Reefs' biophilic concrete mix. Educated as an Architect, with a specific interest in biomimicry. Evelyn's concrete oyster reef restoration products have established GROW as an internationally recognized leader in the field of coastal resilience. She is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, was selected as an MIT Solver 2019, and a RISE Innovation Fellow in 2020.
- **Ben Willauer;** Acting Chief Financial Officer - Over 15 years working with high-growth, high-impact ventures to achieve scalable solutions to intractable problems. Past Chief Development Officer for Whole Oceans and General Partner of a 3(c)1 hedge fund focused on corporate governance reform. Founder of The Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership. Current Board Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee at The Nature Conservancy, Maine.
- **Andy Belling;** Acting Chief Production Officer Over 30 years of progressive Management, Operations, Engineering, and Quality Control experience in the manufacturing of technical products including expertise in new business development, currently with Siemens Energy.



CORRT Reef Tile Results After only ONE Year