At EcoRise, we believe in the power of teachers to ignite innovation and the potential of students to design a sustainable future for all.

Our school-based program empowers youth to tackle real-world challenges in their schools and communities by teaching sustainability, design innovation and social entrepreneurship.

01. TEACH
EcoRise offers standards aligned, project-based, K–12 curriculum focused on environmental literacy, social innovation and hands-on design skills.

02. CONNECT
We facilitate connections with green S.T.E.M. professionals who provide project mentorship and introduce students to green career pathways.

03. IMPACT
Our Student Innovation Fund provides campuses with small grants, allowing youth to bring their solutions to fruition.

04. GROW
We support and inspire our teachers with professional development experiences that are creative, engaging, and relevant.
WHAT WE TEACH

From sustainability and design to entrepreneurship and biomimicry, our curriculum provides teachers with the tools and resources needed to ignite student innovation.

**SUSTAINABLE INTELLIGENCE**
Builds sustainability knowledge across seven eco-themes: water, waste, food, energy, air, public spaces and transportation

**DESIGN STUDIO**
Guides students to develop and implement creative solutions to pressing problems using EcoRise’s design-thinking process

**BIOMIMICRY**
Challenges chemistry, physics, and biology students to look at “nature as mentor” in order to solve sustainability challenges

**ECOPRENEURSHIP**
Introduces social entrepreneurship and sustainable business practices, challenging students to develop their own business ideas

**ECO SMARTS**
Engages elementary students in a campus-wide environmental audit as they learn and practice sustainable behaviors

**LEED PREP**
Prepares students to become LEED-GA certified as they learn green building techniques by assessing their school’s environmental health and performance

Sustainable Intelligence
Design Studio
Biomimicry
EcoPreneurship
EcoSmarts
LEED Prep

**SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE COVERED**

- Eco-Literacy
- Entrepreneurship
- S.T.E.M.
- Problem-Solving
- Systems Thinking
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Design Thinking
HOW WE’VE EXPANDED

2015–2016 Program Reach

We’ve been growing like crazy since 2011.

- **26 COUNTRIES**
- **600 SCHOOLS**
- **1,800 TEACHERS**
- **26,000 STUDENTS**

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Our program empowers teachers to confidently champion sustainability and innovation in their classroom.

And while teachers work their magic, students cultivate 21st century skills, computer literacy and sustainable living practices.

- **93%** reported EcoRise’s curriculum supports their classroom’s academic goals.
- **91%** described EcoRise trainings as relevant, well-organized, and engaging.
- **93%** said EcoRise brings new energy to their teaching practice.
- **74%** adopted at least one new green habit or behavior*.
- **72%** improved their use of technology to learn with their peers.
- **71%** reported developing at least one 21st century skill*.

*Top responses include:

- waste management
- energy conservation
- water conservation
- stewardship of public spaces
- more time spent outside

- Top responses include:

- teamwork
- peer teaching
- creative thinking
- goal setting
We partnered with the City of Austin and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to bring the students’ solutions to life.

$20,402
GRANTS AWARDED

1,444
STUDENT LEADERS

34
CAMPUS PROJECTS

$66,319
ONE-YEAR, CUMULATIVE UTILITY SAVINGS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS
When doing a garden project – or really any project – with students, Thora Gray believes “the repetition is really important. When you’re not outside doing it and touching it, conceptually it’s harder to grasp.”

At Austin Discovery School, Gray teaches a course called EcoWellness to K-4 once weekly. But what she’s actually teaching her students pushes further than the school grounds: to look at the world around them – and their roles within it – with proud, active and discerning eyes.

Five of her students, ages ten and eleven, gather in their school’s ‘reuse free zone,’ a room stocked with recyclable materials salvaged for future projects. The shelves are packed with glass bottles, cans, paper and baskets filled with odds and ends. On the floor across from the shelves is a metal feed trough, where recently hatched chicks scurry and peep around her waist before dashing off to somebody who doesn’t know about it. And then I challenge them again: you now need to go and talk to somebody who doesn’t know about it. Have those conversations.”

Gray shared that from a young age she spent her free time outdoors climbing trees and catching frogs and snakes, laying the foundation for a lasting relationship with the natural environment. “It’s that connection that inspires her to teach. “When students become passionate about what we are talking about and doing, Nature becomes the teacher; it’s an intrinsic approach. Knowledge of humanity’s ecological footprint becomes more transferrable as that deep relationship forms within each student.”

When asked about the challenge of aligning her students’ work with the real world, she refers back to the chicken welfare lesson. “They ask, ‘what can we do about it?’ And I ask them, can you vote? They all say, no we can’t vote… that’s like what, eight, nine, ten years away!” “But you vote with your money,” she goes on. “So every time you go somewhere, you’re not outside doing it and touching it, conceptually it’s harder to grasp.”

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“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

JOHN MUIR
In the next three years, EcoRise aims to grow from 600 schools to 5,000 schools in 35 countries.

Our core strategy relies on building cross-sector alliances with partners who:

01. RECOGNIZE THE UNLEASHED POTENTIAL OF YOUTH AS LEADERS AND PROBLEM-SOLVERS

02. BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF EDUCATION AS THE FOUNDATION FOR SOCIETAL CHANGE

03. STAND AS LEADERS IN THE FIELDS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

04. SHARE IN OUR VISION FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL AND PROSPEROUS WORLD

To reach this goal, we are building a global alliance of visionary companies, organizations and institutions who wish to partner for greater impact and bring sustainability education to our children’s classrooms.
Join the movement.

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**INTRODUCE** EcoRise to new teachers and school district leaders

**PROVIDE** school scholarships to underwrite program fees

**ENRICH** our classrooms by volunteering as a virtual mentor or classroom presenter

**CONTRIBUTE** to our Student Innovation Fund

**SHARE** our work through social media and other personal and professional networks

**CHAMPION** the development of new transformative curricula and programming

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Did you say partner benefits?

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**EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT**
EcoRise offers a number of opportunities for employees, including virtual mentoring, classroom presentations and advising curriculum development.

**PR & RECOGNITION**
Partners are celebrated on our website, social media platforms and communication materials, reaching a broad spectrum of sectors.

**CUSTOMIZED K–12 MATERIALS**
EcoRise creates high-quality K–12 materials that can educate students about the topics and industries that matter most to you.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION**
Supporting local school programs bolsters goodwill while increasing your community’s eco-literacy and sustainable living practices.

**LOCAL CAMPAIGNS**
EcoRise “Design Challenges” encourage youth to explore, create and propose solutions to targeted sustainability issues.