Students at Brooke Elementary in Austin, TX developed their skills through a project of raising chickens and engaging in sustainability and green entrepreneurship projects.

EcoRise inspires a new generation of leaders 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.
We Believe

1. **Education** is the bedrock of social and environmental change.

2. **Youth** have the power to design a sustainable world.

3. **Teachers** are the key to unlocking student innovation.
Living and breathing sustainability.

Online Resources
All curriculum and teacher training resources are now available through online learning platforms, making our school programming paperless.

Remote Work Policies
With the flexibility to work remotely and leverage technology tools, our staff can communicate and collaborate across the U.S. and beyond, increasing impact while reducing our carbon footprint.

Zero-Waste and Locally Sourced
For training, staff retreats, and community events, we make every effort to source locally and compost or recycle all waste items.

Green Living Stipends
We encourage personal sustainability practices by offering our staff a Green Living Stipend, which supports investments such as rainwater barrels, compost systems and home gardens.
Our Program

As former educators, we understand the importance of teacher support and student agency. That’s why our model is teacher-first, student-driven.

“EcoRise is the most supportive program I have ever participated in. They truly have a high regard for sustainability and student success.”

DENISE ORTIZ
NEW BRAUNFELS HIGH SCHOOL | NEW BRAUNFELS, TX
Standards-Aligned Curriculum

We create K–12, STEM-based curriculum that challenges students to investigate local sustainability problems and invent real-world solutions.

Through project-based activities, design labs, and campus Eco-Audits, teachers become equipped with the educational resources needed to catalyze student innovation.
“EcoRise is a pioneer in sustainability education. Their curriculum and support engage our young future leaders toward actual progress for a cleaner and healthier community.”

KATE HOFFNER
HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | AUSTIN, TX

Teacher Professional Development

We empower teachers through year-round face-to-face and online training that is designed to support and inspire.

Our flexible resources and real-time support allow educators to realize their academic visions, spur student growth and engagement, and achieve true campus sustainability.
We propel student-driven sustainability solutions into action through our Student Innovation Fund.

After students conduct a campus-wide eco-audit and capture real environmental data, they have the opportunity to apply to our Student Innovation Fund and receive a micro-grant to implement their solution.

At the end of the year, we convene these students and community members for Student Showcase events, providing an authentic space for students to share capstone projects with the larger community.

“In all, this was a tremendous real-world experience for my students.”

EDWIN YOO
CODMAN ACADEMY | DORCHESTER, MA
EcoRise awarded $31,183 to 75 student innovations in micro-grants, which created national district resource savings of $66,879 and engaged 53,374 students in 2016–17.

SELECT STUDENT INNOVATIONS

- Beehive Education
- Bottles You Can Refill, Not Landfill!
- Butterfly Garden
- Chickens Are Friends & Food!
- Convenient Composting
- Geometry Garden Project
- Low-Flow Is the Way to Go
- Outdoor Classroom
- Plants to Ventilate
- Rain Water Collection
- Recycling Plant Field Trip
- Solar Charging Stations
- The Catcher in the Ryde Carpooling App
- Trailblazer Water Bottle Campaign
- Turtle Tank & Indoor Aquaponics
- Water Waste Isn't Funny
The environmental impact of these student innovations speaks for itself.

458,385 \textit{gal} \textsc{w}\textsubscript{ater} \textsc{s}\textsubscript{aved}

(About the same as filling up 9,167 bathtubs)

1,594,655 \textit{lbs} \textsc{w}\textsubscript{aste} \textsc{diverted}

(Just imagine 39,867 trash bags—yikes!)

29,826 \textit{kWh} \textsc{e}\textsubscript{n}\textsc{ergy} \textsc{c}\textsubscript{onserved}

(Equivalent to fully charging 2.5 million iPads)
SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

The Busy Bees of Brooke Elementary School

Location: Austin, TX
Eco-Audit: Public Spaces
Grant Awarded: $961

Everybody suit up…it’s beehive education time! This year, fourth grade students learned about colony-collapse, habitat loss, and diseases affecting honeybees at Brooke.

With the help of an EcoRise grant, the students purchased kid-sized beekeeper suits so they could move in closer to their campus apiary, understand bee-havior, tend regularly to the hive, and harvest honey to sell at their school farmers’ market. To cap off their success, as his beekeeping student showcasers cheered him on at Austin City Hall, teacher Sam DeSanto accepted the EcoRise Legacy Award, given to an outstanding EcoRise educator who has demonstrated continued commitment to student innovation and sustainability on a K–12 campus for ten or more years. Over time, the Legacy Award recipient has consistently leveraged a wide range of sustainability resources—including community partnerships, grant funds, curriculum, and professional development—to deeply embed student innovation and sustainability into the classroom and campus culture.
At Akins, data speaks—and weighs—volumes. Students asked their peers about the biggest transportation, water, energy, food, and waste challenges around campus, sharing the crowdsourced responses through ArcGIS mapping software.

After reviewing the data, the after-school clubs Green Teens and Just Keep Livin’ identified waste habits of students as the most significant issue. They studied the path of single-use water bottles on campus. The big find? If every student brought their own refillable bottle every day for a year, it would mean massive cost savings and landfill waste diversion!

So, armed with an EcoRise grant, Akins plans to raise funds for a campus water-bottle filling station by producing and selling Akins-branded bottles. Getting the whole school involved in finding the challenge means also involving them in the solution.
National Impact, by the Numbers

- 96% of teachers report EcoRise fosters student eco-literacy
- 93% of teachers report EcoRise improves students’ 21st-century skills
- 90% of teachers report EcoRise expands their teaching practice
- 89% of teachers report EcoRise empowers them to be a more effective environmental educator
- 85% of teachers report EcoRise creates a more authentic learning experience for their students
- 71% of students adopted a new behavior or habit after being exposed to EcoRise resources*

* Top behaviors/habits include:
  - Conserving energy
  - Reducing waste
  - Saving water
  - Taking care of public spaces
  - Eating healthier food

EcoRise fosters student eco-literacy
EcoRise improves students’ 21st-century skills
EcoRise expands their teaching practice
EcoRise empowers them to be a more effective environmental educator
EcoRise creates a more authentic learning experience for their students
EcoRise resources

96% of teachers report
93% of teachers report
90% of teachers report
89% of teachers report
85% of teachers report
71% of students adopted

SCHOOLS ACROSS THE U.S.*
And Africa! Woodland Star International School in Limuru, Kenya became EcoRise’s first international partner school.

253 TEACHERS
2,115 HOURS OF TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
23,000 students

512 students
Teachers Are the Heroes

EcoRise teachers are facilitators of learning—creating classrooms that encourage students to dream big, collaborate with peers, take risks, and implement real-world sustainability solutions. Our goal is to create experiences that empower, support, and inspire our educators along their teaching journey.

AWARDS

This year, we presented awards to two educators who have demonstrated a commitment to student innovation and sustainability.

EcoRise Legacy Award—Sam DeSanto
Brooke Elementary School | Austin, TX

Given to an outstanding EcoRise educator who has demonstrated commitment to student innovation and sustainability on a K–12 campus for ten or more years, the Legacy Award went to Sam DeSanto of Brooke Elementary School for his own sustained excellence.

EcoRise Teacher of the Year—Kate Hoffner
Hill Elementary School | Austin, TX

Kate Hoffner accepted the EcoRise Teacher of the Year Award at Austin City Hall, given in recognition of her heartfelt commitment to student innovation and sustainability throughout the current school year.

AMBASSADORS

Our ambassadors are EcoRise teachers who have demonstrated a strong commitment to our mission and core values.

Dr. Shannon McPherson
Cedar Park High School
Leander, TX

Tabitha Yeager
Dighton-Rehoboth High School
Dighton, MA

Andrea Tole
Bertha Sadler Means Young Women’s Leadership Academy
Austin, TX

Dr. Shannon McPherson smiles in front of her campus garden.

Sam DeSanto and his fourth graders at Brooke Elementary School proudly accept the EcoRise Legacy Award at Austin City Hall.

Green Team Leader and Hill Elementary School teacher Katy Holguin poses with Vivi B. and other students at the Eco-Audit Showcase in Austin, TX.
Partnering for Greater Impact

EcoRise is joined by an alliance of visionary partners who believe education is the foundation for societal change and recognize the unleashed potential of youth as leaders and problem-solvers.

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

As a leader in corporate social responsibility, H-E-B Grocery Stores has consistently promoted sustainability across the value chain—from product sourcing to community outreach. H-E-B supports EcoRise in Texas through program funding and in-kind donations.

Business and Corporate Partners can engage with EcoRise by offering technical consultation, financial support, in-kind donations, and like-minded networks.

MUNICIPAL SPOTLIGHT

The City of Austin’s Office of Sustainability is a long-time sponsor of EcoRise’s Student Innovation Fund and Eco-Audit Showcase in Austin. With a demonstrated commitment to sustainability, the City of Austin has facilitated connections with local leaders.

Government and Municipal Partners can engage with EcoRise through funding implementation in local schools, hosting regional showcases, and introducing us to school districts and local leadership.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT

This year, EcoRise and Biomimicry Institute released a cutting-edge curriculum—Biomimicry and Science. The materials, targeted for high school biology, chemistry, and physics courses, attracted worldwide attention and interest in further partnerships.

Program Collaborators and Non-Profits can partner with EcoRise by offering new networks and technical expertise, sharing resources, and collaborating on events and special projects.

OTHER PARTNERS

EcoRise is joined by an alliance of visionary partners who believe education is the foundation for societal change and recognize the unleashed potential of youth as leaders and problem-solvers.
Our Bold Vision

**SCALE**
OUR IMPACT TENFOLD BY 2020

**FORGE**
PARTNERSHIPS FOR GLOBAL PROGRAMMING

**EXPAND**
STUDENT INNOVATION FUND ACROSS THE U.S.

**BUILD**
A VIBRANT NETWORK OF TEACHER AMBASSADORS

Join us in championing transformative K–12 sustainability education.

- CONNECT us to schools.
- FUEL our work with financial support.
- SPREAD the word and follow along.