



ecoRise

IMPACT REPORT

2018-2019

Dear Friend,

At EcoRise, we believe that classrooms can be incubators for social change, preparing students to become the sustainability champions we need, today and in the future. This year, we were proud to support 2,796 K-12 teachers across the country—from New York City to Pharr, Texas—in transforming their classrooms to provide students the opportunity to create real-world solutions to environmental and social challenges in their community.

I hope you had the chance to see our programs in action this year at one of our Student Innovation Showcase events held in city halls across the country (if you missed it, see page 18). We were thrilled to invest over \$56,000 in triple-bottom line projects across the U.S. this year, from solar power irrigation systems to waste reduction campaigns, engaging over 150,000 K-12 students in our programs along the way.

And we're just getting started. Five years ago, we served fewer than 1,500 students. Today, our Vision 2020 plan sets us on a course to impact over 250,000 students annually through a network of 4,000 K-12 teachers here in the United States.

The support of our public and private sector partners has allowed us to significantly deepen our impact and expand our programs, inspiring a new generation of sustainability leaders from coast to coast.

Thank you for making this possible! Together, #WeRise.

Jonathan Stott, Executive Director



EcoRise inspires a new generation of leaders to design a sustainable future for all.

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



WE BELIEVE

At EcoRise, we believe our growing environmental crisis and political gridlock on climate change stem from a simple fact: The majority of K-12 students in the American education system graduate from high school environmentally illiterate and unprepared to build resilient communities of the future.

Our solutions-oriented, K-12 program directly addresses the problem at its root, providing students the opportunity to act as sustainability leaders and changemakers in their communities, developing projects with social, environmental, and economic impacts—from California to Texas to Washington D.C.



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

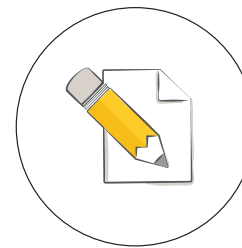
2 / **Youth have the power to design a sustainable world.**

3 / **Teachers are the key to unlocking student innovation.**

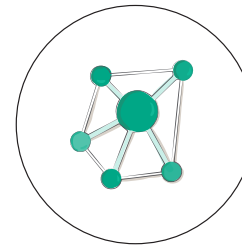
4 / **Partnerships magnify and accelerate community impact.**



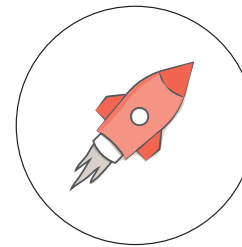
Our team is comprised of mission-driven educators with 124 cumulative years of education experience. We understand the importance of teacher support and student agency. That's why our model is teacher-first, student-driven.



**STANDARDS-
ALIGNED
CURRICULUM**



**TEACHER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



**STUDENT
INNOVATION
FUND**

OUR PROGRAM

OUR CURRICULUM



Sustainable Intelligence

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

Audience: K-12 teachers who aim to cultivate eco-literacy and sustainability thinking in students of all ages; available in English and Spanish



LEED Prep

Prepares students to take the LEED Green Associate Exam, understand green building techniques, and apply what they've learned in their schools and communities

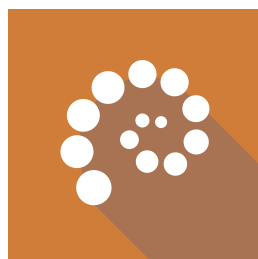
Audience: High school CTE teachers who aim to give students marketable credentials for entering the workforce as architects, builders, designers, and other green building professionals



Design Studio

Guides students to develop and implement creative solutions to pressing problems using EcoRise's design-thinking process

Audience: 5th-12th grade teachers who aim to cultivate collaboration and creative problem-solving skills via real-world projects



Biomimicry and Science

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

Audience: Middle and high school teachers who want to inspire students to appreciate and learn from nature as they design innovative solutions to common problems



The Business of Social Good

Introduces principles of social entrepreneurship, sustainability, and design thinking and challenges students to develop a business idea

Audience: High school business and entrepreneurship teachers who wish to model social, environmental, and economic balance to inspire students to create and support sustainable businesses

“EcoRise has allowed me to not only be a better teacher, but has allowed my students to become better learners. The curriculum has brought excitement back into the classroom for so many of my students and it brings out leaders that I never had before!”

ALLISON BEARDEN
OAKCREST INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL | TOMBALL, TX



OUR
TEACHERS

This year we served

2,796

K-12 teachers,

1,040

schools, and

156,576

students!

We facilitated

3,591

*hours
of teacher
trainings.*

We've grown significantly since last school year, serving five new regions and double the number of schools!

ESTABLISHED REGIONS

- Austin, TX
- Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX
- Houston, TX
- New York City, NY
- Sacramento, CA
- San Antonio, TX
- Washington, DC

EMERGING REGIONS

- Bay Area, CA
- Boston, MA
- Miami, FL
- New Orleans, LA
- Rio Grande Valley, TX

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

EcoRise works with education partners around the world to provide teachers access to our curricula and programs. Through our network of local champions, EcoRise lessons are being used in all 50 U.S. states and 30 countries.



In this year's program evaluations, teachers reported the following:

97% say EcoRise fosters student **eco-literacy**



95% say EcoRise improves students' **21st-century skills**



94% of students have adopted a new **environmentally friendly behavior**



91% say EcoRise creates a more **authentic learning experience** for students



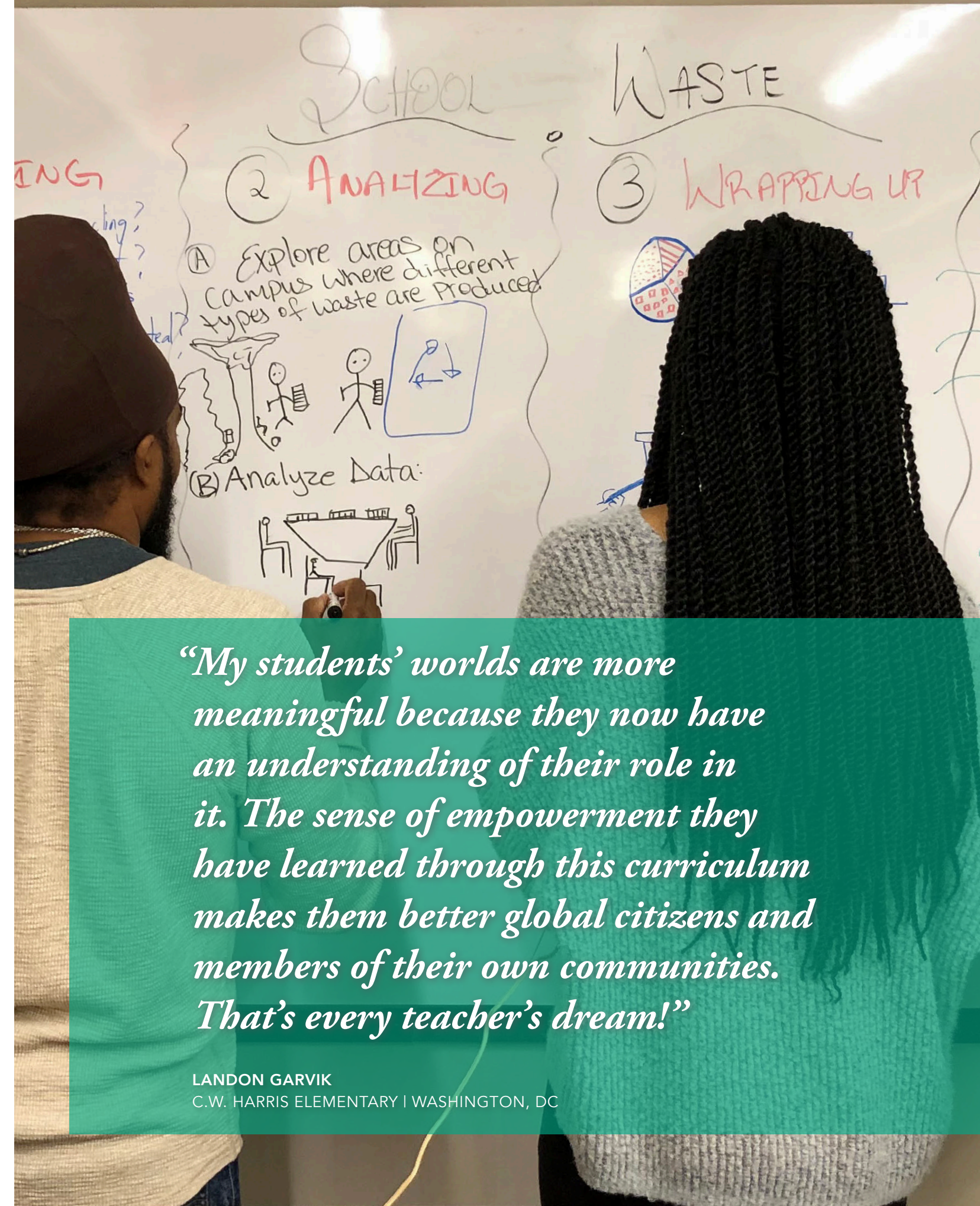
86% say EcoRise curriculum **supports their school's academic goals**



92% say EcoRise empowers them to be a **more effective environmental educator**



97% will **continue using EcoRise curricula and resources** in their classrooms next year



“My students’ worlds are more meaningful because they now have an understanding of their role in it. The sense of empowerment they have learned through this curriculum makes them better global citizens and members of their own communities. That’s every teacher’s dream!”

LANDON GARVIK
C.W. HARRIS ELEMENTARY | WASHINGTON, DC



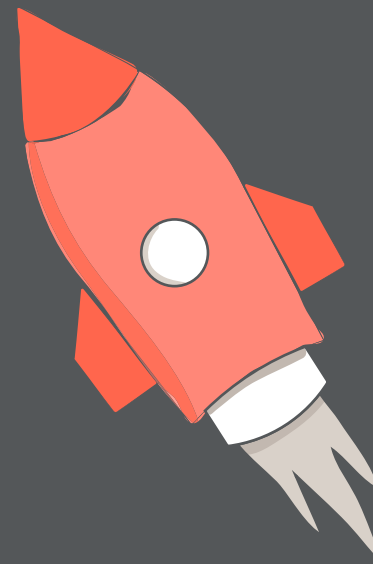
EcoRise introduces students to the three pillars of sustainability: people, planet, and prosperity. Students must demonstrate the social, economic, and environmental impacts of their sustainability projects.



In 2018-19, we awarded

\$56,098

in Eco-Audit Grants to



127

student innovations!

In the next 12 months, these projects will create

\$162,600

in resource savings for school districts!

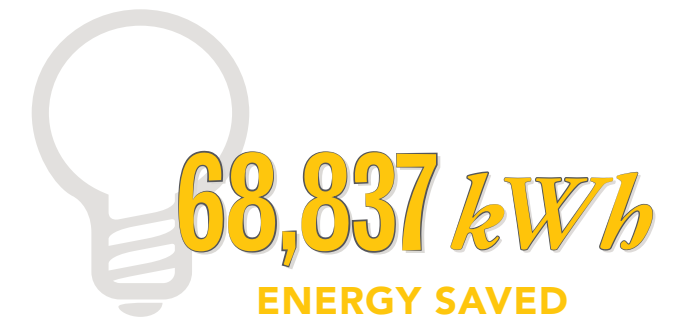
OUR STUDENTS

Example Student Innovations

- Ben Franklin HS Diversity Garden
- Bird Habitat Blitz!
- Bringing Berries to Brooke
- Butterfly and Bee Garden
- Cafeteria Composting Infrastructure
- Chicken Life Cycle
- Cleaning Up Our Pond
- Compostable Cutlery
- Creating a Stress Free Green Space
- Indoor Plants for Every Classroom
- Erosion Prevention
- Green House Renovation
- Grow It, Eat It, Share It
- Herb Garden Grant
- Idle Power Conservation
- Improving Drinking Water at Pace HS
- Magnificent Mud Makeover
- Mini Public Library Design
- Nature Trail
- No More Paper Towels!
- Plastic Is Not Fantastic
- Rain Barrels with Solar Powered Pump
- ReusaBottle Save the World
- Rodent Control
- Snack Time Waste Tree
- Thirsty Bees
- Vertical Gardening
- Walk and Bike to School
- Weather Station



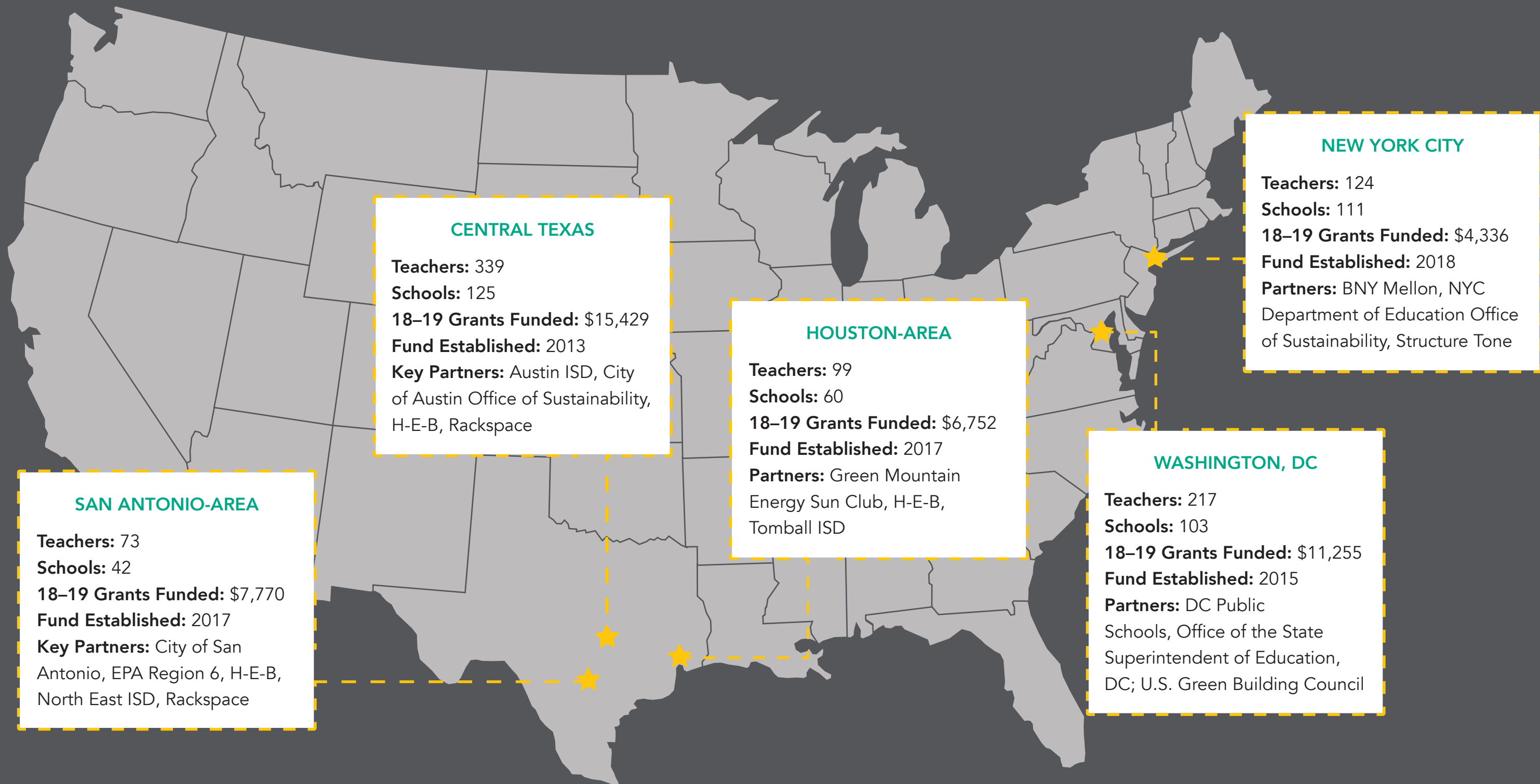
National Student Impact





Student Innovation Showcases

Regional Student Showcases are hosted each spring to celebrate the next generation of innovators across the country. This school year, five showcases gave 308 EcoRise students a platform to present their green campus innovations to their communities. In addition to the Key Partners listed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, funded student innovation throughout Texas and Louisiana.



Washington, DC Third-Graders Improve Indoor Air Quality

ECO-AUDIT: AIR

GRANTS AWARDED: \$825

SPONSOR: OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DC (OSSE)

Sabina Malkani is the science and reading intervention teacher at Bruce-Monroe Elementary School @ Park View, a Title 1 school in the District of Columbia Public Schools. It was only one year ago, in spring 2018, that she completed her first EcoRise training. The following fall semester, Sabina's third-graders received the first Eco-Audit Grant award of the 2018–2019 school year: \$825 to fund two student-driven sustainability projects. The students conducted an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) audit and made 28 bottles of nontoxic cleaning solution to be used to improve the air quality in classrooms throughout their school. They will also take a field trip to visit a local green cosmetic company to learn more about the industry process.

Ms. Malkani's passion for teaching sustainability sparked a new way of thinking among her students, and now that mindset has spread throughout their community. Students conducted an Eco-Audit of their classrooms and determined what wasn't working well for the air quality. "Our classrooms are dusty. What can we do to help?" they asked. Students analyzed different cleaners in their classrooms and researched the ingredients. After learning about the purpose and health-related side effects of

each ingredient, the students wanted to clean the classroom differently. Their solution was to make a natural cleaner, bottle it, and give it to teachers and staff to use in their rooms. They called it APC: All Purpose Cleaner. Each class made its own scent—lemon, tea tree, lavender.

Now these students are advocates for improving IAQ, eager to explain what they've learned to anyone who will listen. In a unit of lessons on speeches, many kids chose to write about air quality and toxicity. They learned to pronounce chemical names commonly used in cleaning products and championed their nontoxic alternative, saying, "If you have anything that has any of these ingredients, you should throw it out and buy our APC." Students have taken what they learned home and are encouraging their parents to make and use nontoxic cleaning supplies as well. "If you teach somebody, you have learned something. And to see these students teaching their parents, siblings, and teachers what they have learned about IAQ and cleaning products is amazing," says Ms. Malkani. "They feel there is a serious problem, and they want to do something about it. That's the exciting part!"





First High School Students Earn LEED® Green Associate™ Credential

LOCATION: BOSTON
SPONSOR: EVERSOURCE

EcoRise is connecting high school students to career opportunities in the growing fields of sustainability, clean energy, and green building with our new curriculum, LEED Prep: Green Building Lessons for a Sustainable Future. This program provides students with leading-edge workforce development experience and prepares them to take the LEED Green Associate Exam and gain a sought-after credential.

Changes in the Earth's climate as well as a host of other environmental challenges we increasingly face have led to extensive growth in the field of green building. Green building is a holistic practice that starts with understanding that the built environment can have profound effects (both positive and negative) on the natural environment, as well as on the people who inhabit buildings. By applying principles of green building, architects, engineers, designers, and technicians help create a more sustainable future.

With LEED Prep, EcoRise is piloting the first green building program of its kind by helping students develop a solid base of knowledge about green building and gain real-world experience and workforce credentials. Thanks to support from Eversource and the Massachusetts chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, eight teachers at five Boston-area high schools participated in the LEED Prep pilot during the 2018–2019 school year. Teachers received access to curriculum, supplemental resources, professional development, and year-round

support from EcoRise staff, as well as access to local green professionals who mentored teachers and students throughout the school year.

In pilot classrooms, teachers engaged their students in hands-on activities and group projects to help them understand LEED requirements and effectively learn and apply sustainability concepts and green-building strategies. Students explored innovative techniques related to various aspects of building design, including planting sustainable landscapes, ensuring healthy indoor environments, incorporating water- and energy-efficient systems and appliances into a design, and more. In spring of 2019, seven students from the pilot took and passed the LEED Green Associate Exam, and dozens more are registered to take the exam in the fall. Congratulations to the first group of high schoolers to graduate with this esteemed degree!

In the 2019–2020 school year, EcoRise and Eversource will double the number of participating schools in Massachusetts and host a three-day LEED Prep Institute for participating teachers at Eversource's offices. EcoRise will host a similar professional learning event in Austin, Texas, for LEED Prep teachers from across the country. EcoRise is also working with the Austin Independent School District and BLGY Architecture to launch the first LEED Prep Internship Program for Akins High School students during the 2019–20 school year.

Rio Grande Valley Students Give New Life to School Supplies

ECO-AUDITS: WASTE

GRANT AWARDED: \$493.75

SPONSOR: ENVIRONMENTAL FUND OF TEXAS

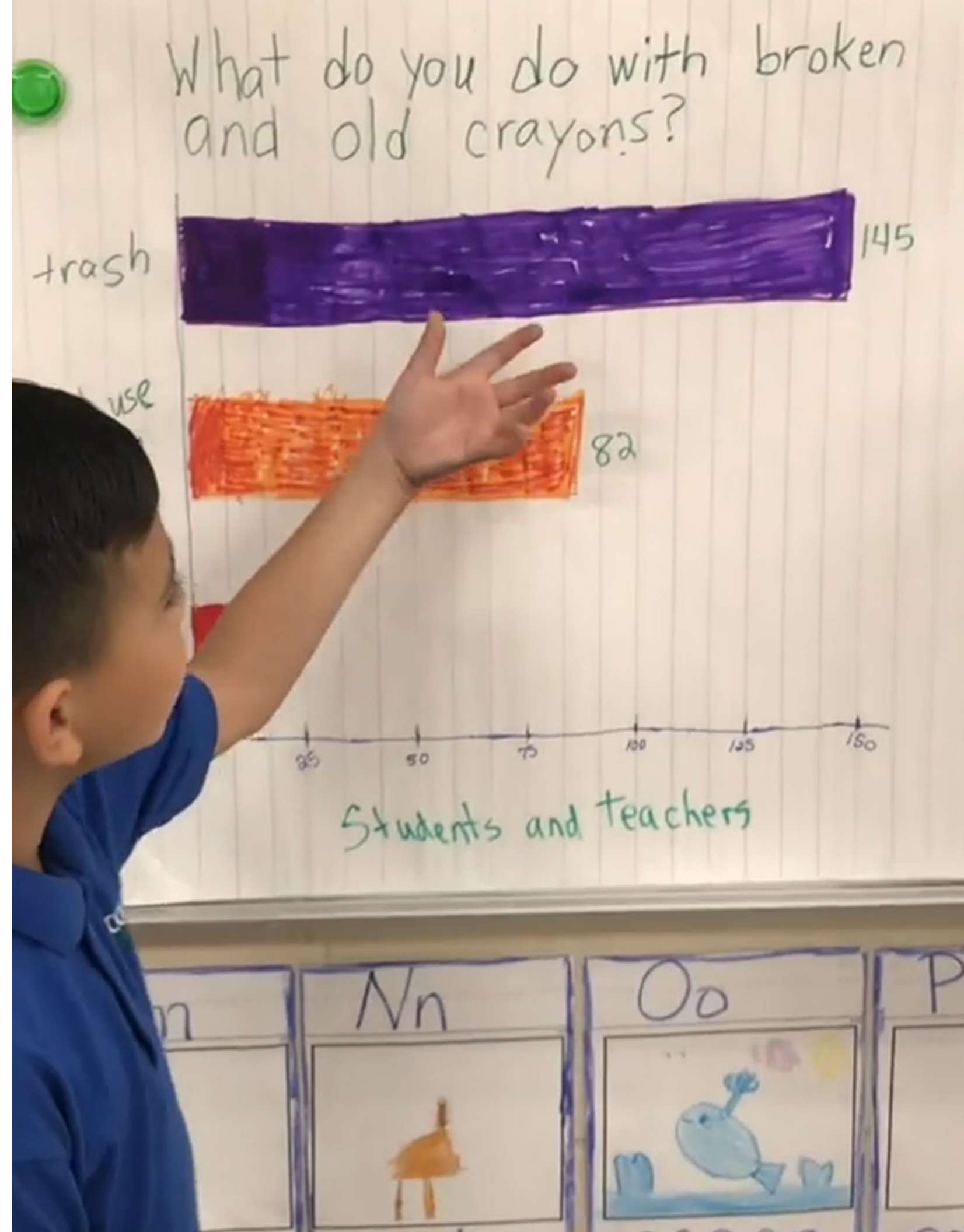
Gloria Covarrubia is among the first teachers in the Texas Rio Grande Valley to have adopted EcoRise curricula into the classroom. Ms. Covarrubia teaches first grade at Berta Palacios Elementary in the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District (PSJAISD). She attended her first EcoRise training in spring 2019, and her students, using curriculum and micro-grants from EcoRise, are already making a big impact on their school and community.

This spring, Ms. Covarrubia's students wanted to know what teachers and fellow students do with broken and old crayons and how their actions could affect the environment. The students conducted a Waste Eco-Audit by first surveying the school's kindergarten through fifth-grade students and teachers about their crayon usage. The students found that the majority, 59%, throw away old and broken crayons, and only 7% donate them. Through their data, they learned that each person throws away 1/3 lb. of crayons on average each year. They also discovered that crayons are not biodegradable. Wanting a better "end-of-the-story" for their crayons than the landfill, students decided that upcycling the used crayons by melting them down and forming new crayons would be the best way to save and reuse them!

Ms. Covarrubia's first-graders also noticed that their school collects used scrap paper for recycling. The students came up with the great

idea of using those scraps to create their own recycled paper, and then pairing the paper with the upcycled crayons to make Crayon Care Packages for sick children in the local hospital. The students applied for and received an EcoRise Eco-Audit Grant allowing them to purchase materials for upcycling broken crayons and making recycled paper. Overall, the students are giving a second life to more than 45 lbs. of school supplies that would otherwise be thrown away each year. You can watch their adorable grant application video at bit.ly/crayoncampaign.

As part of the EcoRise Vision 2020 plan, the organization aims to launch programs in at least four rural regions that lack strong environmental education initiatives, in order to increase eco-literacy in areas most vulnerable to climate change. EcoRise's first rural program implementation was made possible by a grant from the Environmental Fund of Texas. With this grant, in the spring of 2019, EcoRise has been able to hold an in-person teacher training for PSJAISD and a webinar for Rio Grande Valley teachers; it has also been able to on-board 43 teachers from 23 schools in the region. During the semester, three groups of students from PSJAISD went on to conduct Eco-Audits and apply for Eco-Audit Grants to fund projects that improve the environmental footprint of their school.

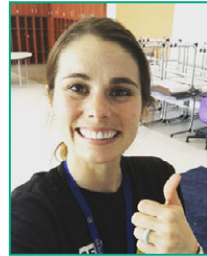


2018-19 Teacher Ambassadors

Teacher Ambassadors are champions of sustainability education, implementing EcoRise resources and curricula in their classrooms while inspiring and empowering other teachers locally and nationally.



Vielca Anglin
Grade 9-12
New York City, NY



Jessica Campbell
Grade 4
Washington, DC



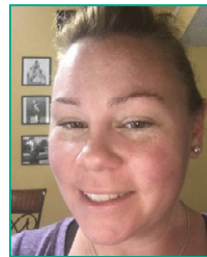
Jamille Fields
Grade 12
Dallas, TX



Haley Galyean
Grade 3-6
Tomball, TX



Dianna Koon
Grade 8
San Antonio, TX



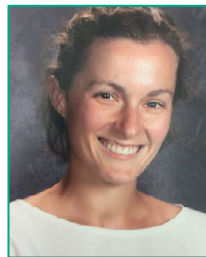
Stacie Mehaffey
Grade 1
Klein, TX



Denise Ortiz
Grade 11-12
New Braunfels, TX



Christine Riera
Kindergarten
Austin, TX



Kristin Schreiber
Graduate Student
Hingham, MA



Mary Ann Settlemyre
Grade K-6
Centreville, VA



David Ward
Grade 4
Round Rock, TX

2018-19 Partner of the Year



We'd like to express our gratitude to Southwest Airlines for providing in-kind travel support of our program, which has allowed us to expand our impact throughout the country! Southwest's generous contribution has enabled EcoRise to provide over 3,500 hours of face-to-face teacher training and support in Southwest communities across the country, as well as convene a national cohort of Teacher Ambassadors in Austin, Texas for our three day Summer Institute. The travel support also enabled our teacher leaders to present nationally at events such as the Green Schools National Conference & Expo in St. Paul, Minnesota.





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By the 2020–2021 school year, EcoRise will scale our programs, deepen our impact, and **Build Resilient Communities of the Future** by:

PROGRESS TO GOALS

	JUNE 2018	JUNE 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding our programs to 10 of the U.S. cities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as New Orleans & New York City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 high-impact hubs 1,101 teachers enrolled 61,656 students impacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 high-impact hubs 2,796 teachers enrolled 156,576 students impacted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding our programs in rural and urban communities that lack strong environmental education programming to reach 250,000 students annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No presence in rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program established in 2 rural Texas communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversifying and expanding library of curricula for K–12 educators to fan the flames of the movement globally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed green building workforce development curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piloted green building program: Trained 7 teachers with 7 students passing certification exam Developed electric vehicle and water footprint curricula
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting a Summer Institute to showcase effective practices and empower educators around the world to create their own EcoRise program anywhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed Summer Institute to train national cohort of Teacher Ambassadors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted inaugural summer institute First cohort of 11 Teacher Ambassadors completed program

Partnering for Greater Impact

EcoRise is building an alliance of visionary people and organizations that are passionate about changing the world by bringing sustainability, leadership, and innovation into our children's classrooms.

“At Southwest, our Heart is to do what’s right by championing our communities and respecting our resources. We are proud to support EcoRise in their efforts to put students on a sustainable path and to connect their team to opportunities that scale their work and impact.”

LAURA NIETO
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH | SOUTHWEST AIRLINES®

SPOTLIGHT PARTNERS



Eversource is strengthening the green energy workforce of Massachusetts by bringing the LEED Prep program to high schools, introducing students to green building design while preparing them to earn a valuable U.S. Green Building Council professional credential.



With its legacy of promoting high-quality education and environmental stewardship, H-E-B is a cherished, long-time supporter of EcoRise. Thanks to H-E-B, EcoRise has dramatically expanded our K-12 environmental education programs.



With a deep commitment to advancing sustainability, the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club sponsors access to EcoRise curricula, professional development, and support for the Student Innovation Fund for educators and students in the greater Houston-area.



As passionate advocates for environmental sustainability, Love, Tito's has championed our Vision 2020 growth goals. With Love, Tito's generous support, we've been able to expand our Teacher Ambassador program and bring EcoRise programs to new communities.



Southwest Airlines is dedicated to building meaningful relationships in the communities it serves and upholding the triple bottom line of performance, people, and planet. Partnering with Southwest has magnified EcoRise's impact and expand our programs across the U.S.



As one of our newest partners, EcoRise is excited to join forces with Target to support our Teacher Ambassadors, school programs in Miami and an innovative initiative focused on collective impact in Texas.

2018-19 SUPPORTING PARTNERS



PROGRAM COLLABORATORS

- Biomimicry Institute
- Captain Planet Foundation
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS)
- Green Building Education Services
- Green Schools National Network
- Michael & Susan Dell Foundation
- Mission Capital
- National Wildlife Federation/EcoSchools USA
- Nepris
- North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)
- Plant the Seed
- United States Green Building Council (USGBC)
- USGBC Center for Green Schools
- Voices for Biodiversity
- Wells Fargo Regional Sustainability Teachers' Academy, ASU Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions Service

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- 1% for the Planet
- Applied Materials
- Austin Impact Capital
- Balcones Resources
- Brllnt
- City of Austin Office of Sustainability
- City of San Antonio
- EBS Holdings, Ltd.
- The Environmental Fund of Texas
- Far West Capital
- Google
- Lakeshore Foundation
- The Meadows Foundation
- Notley Fund
- Office of the State Superintendent of Education (DC)
- Perkins Eastman, DC
- Rackspace

- The Reese Foundation
- Richard's Rainwater
- Structure Tone
- Tingari-Silverton Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- USGBC Massachusetts

SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERS

- Austin Independent School District
- District of Columbia Public Schools
- Leander Independent School District
- New York City Department of Education
- North East Independent School District
- Sacramento City Unified School District
- Tomball Independent School District

Awards



2019 Winner: Education



2018 Best of Green Schools
Award: Collaborator



Our Team

STAFF

Gina LaMotte
Founder, President &
Chief Innovation Officer

Jonathan Stott
Executive Director

Abby Randall
Director of Programs

Jennifer "Jenji" Henson
Director of Special Projects

Kristi Hibler-Luton
Program Manager

Kizzy Hannibal Xolani
Program Manager

Brittany Jayroe
Program Manager

Jessica Cravens
Program Manager

Laura Fuller
Marketing & Design
Specialist

Amaryllis Martin
Operations Manager

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Suzi Sosa
Katie Sternberg
Lee Walker

Our Values

WE CULTIVATE
Gratitude



WE PRACTICE
Resilience



WE STRIVE FOR
Equity



WE ARE
Leading-Edge



WE BUILD
Comradery



WE EMBRACE
Integrity



Join us in building a movement.



Unleash the power and potential of youth as leaders and creative problem-solvers in communities across the world.

Join us to champion transformative K-12 sustainability education. Your partnership and support will allow us to serve 4,000 teachers and 250,000 students by 2020.

- **Spread** the word about EcoRise.
- **Connect** us to new schools.
- **Fuel** our work with a generous donation.
- **Bridge** new community partnerships.



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