



ecoRise

**Texas
Impact Report**

2025-2026

EcoRise mobilizes a new generation of leaders to design healthy, thriving communities for all.



Across Texas this year, students designed and led 51 projects that saved water, diverted waste, produced food, and improved the spaces where they learn, helping address issues of drought, extreme heat, and pressure on local water and energy systems. As a K–12 education leader founded in Texas, EcoRise partners with educators, school districts, and local organizations to deliver place-based environmental education that connects classroom learning to real-world skills, green career pathways, and civic engagement. Guided by our **Together, We Thrive** strategic plan, we are deepening these partnerships so that every student, regardless of zip code, has access to the tools and experiences they need to lead.

WE BELIEVE

- **Education** is the bedrock of social and environmental change.
- **Youth** have the power to design a sustainable world.
- **Teachers** are the key to unlocking student innovation.
- **Partnerships** magnify and accelerate community impact.

OUR WORK

Our train-the-teacher model and online platform provide K–12 curriculum, professional development, and community resources to educators around the world. In Texas, we partner with school districts and community organizations to connect students with funding for environmental projects, Youth Climate Councils, and paid green career internships. The EcoRise program develops the next generation of creative problem solvers by offering teachers and students the tools, community, and inspiration needed to design, cultivate, and embrace resilient and sustainable practices.



Standards-Aligned Curricula



Teacher Professional Development



Student Innovation Fund



Green Career Exploration



Community Connections



Civic Engagement

Texas students tackled real challenges in their own communities this year. Thank you for helping make it happen. Together, #WeRise!



Who We Served in Texas

THIS YEAR

39

GREEN CAREER
INTERNS

73,304

K-12
STUDENTS

1,309

K-12
TEACHERS

THROUGH

\$100,249

YOUTH
COMPENSATION

783

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT HOURS

\$40,825

TEACHER
COMPENSATION

SINCE 2015, WE'VE SERVED

327,544

STUDENTS

5,849

TEACHERS

2,198

SCHOOLS

2025-2026 PROGRAM IMPACT

Of the EcoRise teachers surveyed:

98%

report that EcoRise resources give them new tools to address their school's academic goals.

96%

are more confident integrating sustainability and environmental issues into their teaching.

91%

believe that EcoRise programs had a large or moderate impact on students' 21st-century skills.

Of the EcoRise students surveyed:

84%

are more aware of the environmental issues in their school or community.

82%

believe young people can persuade others to act on environmental issues.

76%

report learning about the different kinds of local jobs and organizations related to sustainability.

Statewide Student Innovation Fund

THIS SCHOOL
YEAR IN TEXAS,
WE AWARDED:

3,607
STUDENT
INNOVATORS

\$39,023
IN MICRO-
GRANTS TO

28,687
PEERS
ENGAGED

51
STUDENT-DRIVEN
PROJECTS.

\$106,193
ESTIMATED SCHOOL
RESOURCE SAVINGS



COLLECTIVE IMPACT OF STUDENT INNOVATION GRANT PROJECTS:


21,720 gal
WATER SAVED


59,696 lb
WASTE DIVERTED


36,788 ft²
GREENSPACE IMPROVED


182,549 kWh
ENERGY SAVED


106,950 ft³
AIR QUALITY IMPROVED


1,049 lb
FOOD PRODUCED

Texas Students in Action

FROM SUGAR AUDIT TO FRUIT TREES IN GALVESTON

Second-graders at Austin Elementary in Galveston ISD got curious about the packaged foods their classmates were bringing to school. The Eco-Red Wolves launched an Eco-Audit of snack choices across their grade. They found that sugary and processed snacks were far more popular than whole foods. They turned to EcoRise's nutrition lessons to understand what was driving the pattern. Guided by Teacher Ambassador Estefania Gomez Moreno, the students built a plan to change how their peers see food choices. With a \$1,200 Student Innovation Grant, they planted fruit trees that will feed the school for years to come, hosted a Healthy Cooking Day, and shared their recipes and their research at the Austin Elementary Health and Science Showcase (see page 7 for more info). Students expect to divert about 100 pounds of snack packaging from the landfill each year and, once the trees mature, grow 50 pounds of fresh fruit annually.



FOSTERING A BICYCLING CULTURE IN AUSTIN

Third-graders at Odom Elementary noticed something most people walked past every day. Bike racks sat tucked away in the courtyard where almost no one used them. Working with school librarian and Teacher Ambassador Lisa Richardson, the team set out to figure out why. They collected data on how students traveled to school and how they feel about biking. Students got the racks moved to the front of the building where they'd actually get used. And with a \$700 Student Innovation Grant, the team designed incentives to build enthusiasm around biking and hosted a field trip with Ghisallo Cycling Initiative to practice riding and bike safety. Their project, *Vini, Vidi, Bici*, shows how closely young learners can read their own environment. By treating a bike rack as a design problem, the Odom team is reshaping how their school gets to class, one ride at a time.

"The most important thing that I learned from participating in EcoRise is that everyone can make a difference."

**STUDENT
NAVARRO EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL, AUSTIN, TX**

TEXAS STUDENTS IN ACTION

CLASSROOM RESPONSIBILITY IN SAN JUAN

A public spaces Eco-Audit of Carman Elementary's classrooms turned into a lesson in observation and reading data. Martin Gow's fifth-graders found that rooms with plants reported calmer, more engaged students. They also found that most classrooms had no greenery at all. Curious what was driving the difference, the team dug deeper, gathering data across campus and interviewing classmates about plant care. They used their findings to design a plan to reach every classroom at Carman. With a \$490 Student Innovation Grant, they're placing at least one plant, with the right soil, drainage, and light, in all 50 classrooms. The plan reaches roughly 750 students, bringing color and a small daily reminder of responsibility into every room at Carman. Watch their design journey in the [grant application video](#).



"Our school district strongly supports the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, so the EcoRise activities connected perfectly with what we are already teaching. The students who applied for the EcoRise grant were especially excited when they received the funding and were proud to provide a plant for every classroom at Carman Elementary."

TEACHER,
CARMAN ELEMENTARY, SAN JUAN, TEXAS



BUILDING A THRIVING GARDEN IN SAN ANTONIO

At the start of the school year, students in Deborah Villarreal's after-school club at William J. Thornton Elementary looked at the bare ground along their school's fence line and saw more than empty space. Through a public spaces Eco-Audit, they identified a chance to build something that could bring nature and fresh food into the school day. With two Student Innovation Grants, totaling \$999, students designed raised vegetable beds to explore plant life cycles and farm-to-table connections, added bird feeders and birding cameras to track native species, and built seating for outdoor classroom use. Guided by Teacher Ambassador Isaac Esquivel through Project ACORN, a district-wide science club focused on planting natives and outdoor learning, they moved from data collection to planting, watching their design take root through the spring. What was once bare ground is now a living classroom the school plans to keep growing.



STUDENT INNOVATION SHOWCASES

EcoRise culminates each school year by celebrating **Student Innovation Grant** recipients at regional Student Innovation Showcases, where students present their work to their community and connect with green professionals. This year, 58 student teams shared their work at showcases nationwide, including 29 Texas teams who wowed parents, community members, and EcoRise partners. This year showed that Texas students are a rising generation of advocates who understand their communities and are ready to shape them.



CENTRAL TEXAS

Central Texas marked ten years of the Student Innovation Showcase this May, when 15 student teams packed Austin City Hall with poster boards, prototypes, and proud explanations. Families crowded around exhibits, city officials stopped to ask questions, and Austin Youth Climate Council members shared their own community projects, which you can read about on page 8. [Read more](#) about the 10th Annual Central Texas Showcase.

SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio students spent their school year gathering data and building solutions, then spent one evening showing their city what they'd found. At the 8th Annual San Antonio Student Innovation Showcase, 14 teams presented to parents, teachers, and community partners eager to hear from the students who did the work. San Antonio Youth Climate Council members were also in attendance, sharing their policy and community resilience work. Learn more about their projects on page 9.



GALVESTON

Students and teachers in Galveston ISD spent the year getting outside and building real-world connections to nature through the Growing Galveston program, funded through EcoRise and Groundswell's first grant from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program. Families and community members joined them at the Austin Elementary Health and Science Showcase, where classes brought a year outdoor learning back inside through displays, interactive activities, and a UT Austin School of Architecture photovoice exhibit capturing outdoor learning in students' own photographs.

**Explore the 2026
Showcase recap.**



AUSTIN YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL

This year, the Austin Youth Climate Council carried one question with them everywhere they went: what counts as climate action? The answer kept changing depending on who they were standing next to as they learned from a park ranger, a solar installer, a mutual aid advocate, and a facilities director rethinking what waste even means. This year's cohort was the Council's largest yet, with **39 students** from 17 schools representing nine City Council districts.

The Council engaged in fieldwork across the city. They toured Q2 Stadium, a TRUE-certified zero-waste facility, and explored electric vehicle infrastructure with Austin Energy. They learned the fundamentals of solar access at The Children's Haven and spent a day exploring conservation careers at McKinney Falls.

Through partner placements, students worked the farm alongside Urban Roots' youth leaders and tracked biodiversity with The Trail Conservancy. They analyzed energy systems with Pecan Street, Inc., brought local water samples to state lawmakers at the Capitol with Environment Texas, and built garden projects and a zine with Festival Beach Food Forest. At The Village Place, students helped stock a neighborhood food pantry, hands-on work behind the scenes of mutual aid. Rising Leader Annika (see page 10) harnessed this collective momentum to organize the city's first Youth Climate Festival, bringing student presenters and community groups under one roof.

By year's end, Council members earned **\$17,000 in stipends**. **95%** of the Council reported learning about jobs and organizations in their community related to sustainability, and **87%** said they now see themselves as leaders on environmental issues at school or in their community. Students didn't just study Austin's climate ecosystem. They became part of what keeps it running.

"One of the most important things I learned was that there are so many community organizations, and there's a way to help them year-round through volunteering."

25-26 AUSTIN COUNCIL MEMBER



Read more about
the Austin
Council's work.



SAN ANTONIO YOUTH CLIMATE COUNCIL

Ask any of the **30 students** on this year's San Antonio Youth Climate Council what surprised them most, and you'll hear about a city planner who rearranged an afternoon to answer their question, or a composting facility that smells more like dirt than garbage. This year's cohort represented nine of ten City Council districts and 21 schools. They spent the year finding their place in San Antonio's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), the city's roadmap for building resilience, and earned **\$15,000 in stipends** for their time, ideas, and effort.

Council convenings took them across the city to see the plan in action. They spent more than **70 hours outside of school**, touring the composting operation at Atlas Organics, sitting down with engineers at CPS Energy and planners at the Alamo Area Council of Governments, pulling weeds at the San Antonio Food Bank, and learning about land stewardship at The Well at Tecolote.

Seven project teams turned what they'd seen into real responses to the CAAP's goals. The food access team, which included Rising Leader Saanvi (see page 10), surveyed neighbors and found that awareness, not access, kept residents from locally grown produce. With a \$566 Student Innovation Grant, they created recipe cards with seasonal ingredients, shared them through grocery stores and farmers' markets, and ran a live cooking demonstration at the San Antonio Food Systems Summit in June. Two teams took on diesel school buses from different directions. One partnered with the Alamo Area Council of Governments to connect three districts with electric bus training. The other worked with the Electric School Bus Academy on a public campaign built on cost and emissions research.

By year's end, **93%** of Council members said they came away more aware of how social and environmental issues shape their city, and **91%** said they felt more civically engaged. These young leaders will help write what comes next for San Antonio.

"I learned the importance of my voice. I saw the impact that this youth group has on people and that what we have to say can have a long-term effect on our environment."

25-26 SAN ANTONIO COUNCIL MEMBER



Read more about
the San Antonio
Council's work.



PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERS

Every year, more students apply to the Youth Climate Councils than there are seats. This year, EcoRise found more ways to say yes to applicants who weren't selected and to students who want to keep leading beyond their Council years.

MORE WAYS TO TAKE PART

In Austin, 53 students joined the Youth Climate Action Coalition, a new pilot for applicants not selected for the Council. Members joined select Council activities, volunteered and presented at the Youth Climate Festival, and toured a carbon capture pilot plant at UT Austin's J.J. Pickle Research Campus. They also worked on projects of their own, from a QR tracking system for reusable water bottles to tree planting with Hornsby Bend, adding to the impact of Council members across the city. Coalition members are welcome to apply to the Council again in future years.

Beyond the Councils, nine EcoRise students joined the Pod Squad, a Texas Youth Action Network coalition of five Austin youth organizations led by Austin Youth River Watch. They chose food waste as their focus, met with the City of Austin and community leaders to understand the problem, and turned what they learned into *Chew on That*, a zine of facts, tips, and recipes.



LEADING FROM WITHIN

Within each Council, senior members stepped into formal leadership as Rising Leaders, guiding newer members and leading peer-to-peer learning. Fifteen students held the role across Austin and San Antonio. Each Council also invited senior members to serve as Rising Leader Chair, helping run the group day to day. In San Antonio, that was third-year member Saanvi. In Austin, fourth-year member Annika and third-year member Elijah shared the role (seen in the second photo above).

Read *Chew on That!*

COMING BACK TO LEAD

Students finishing their time on the Council can return in new roles. EcoRise created alumni internships within its own programs, and two alumni interns working in Austin and San Antonio helped run Council sessions, handled logistics, and shaped program content. They brought the perspective of students who sat in those same seats a year or two earlier. Two Council alumni have also served on EcoRise's Board of Directors, including one who serves today, bringing youth voice into decisions about the organization's future.

"I was able to give a true voice to show the positives and growth of this council... It was a pleasure and honor to serve my community and the Youth Climate Council."

25–26 RISING LEADER, SAN ANTONIO COUNCIL

GREEN CAREERS ACADEMY INTERNSHIPS

This year, 39 Texas high school students earned paid, hands-on experience with organizations already doing environmental work in their communities. In Austin and San Antonio, 30 Youth Climate Council members traded after-school meetings for six weeks of summer internship work with six host organizations. In Galveston, nine students joined Groundswell's SEED internship.

IMPROVING SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

At Urban Roots, eight interns spent their first weeks learning the farm's harvesting and irrigation systems before noticing a compost pile nobody was managing. Using mostly repurposed materials, the team built a Johnson-Su bioreactor, a low-cost composting system that runs without worms or heavy upkeep, then designed interpretive signs so volunteers could understand the farm's systems without staff guidance. Across town, four interns split their summer between Austin's Parks and Recreation and Watershed Protection Departments, maintaining green stormwater infrastructure at five sites and surveying tree saplings at Bethany Cemetery, one of Austin's oldest historically Black cemeteries. Mahati, Izzy, Evie, and Luling each came away with a clearer view of the paths into environmental work, including Luling's new appreciation for rain gardens she had walked past her whole life.

COMMUNITY CARE AT EVERY LEVEL

At Environment Texas, Joshua spent his summer analyzing statewide power plant emissions data to help flag potential Clean Air Act violations, while Isadora researched and wrote environmental policy pieces and testified at a hearing at the Texas Capitol. A few miles away, Olive, Jazmin, Kyndall, and Zoya interned with The Village Place, a mutual aid organization serving Black mothers across Austin. They organized and advertised the free store and helped lead a summer camp.

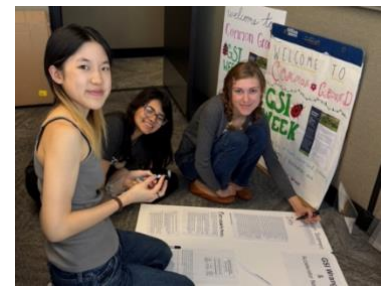
GROWING ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD

At Gardopia Gardens, Aliana built raised garden beds with power tools for the first time, and Joy ran the farmers market booth, building the kind of communication skills that come from talking with strangers all day. Interns at the San Antonio Food Bank split up to cover more ground. Rozita and Oreoluwa took on the challenge of designing a volunteer engagement space meant to turn a working farm into a place people learn. Karen connected ten San Antonio organizations with seedlings for the growing season, and Josue partnered with the Food Bank's CHEF program to work more fresh, seasonal produce into school menus. Groundswell's SEED interns planted, harvested, and shared fresh food with their community. Along the way, they explored career paths, built teamwork, and discovered what they can accomplish where they live.

By summer's end, **100%** of interns said they felt better prepared to enter the workforce, and **80%** said their experiences made them more interested in pursuing a green career. We're grateful to the volunteer mentors who donated time and energy to equip these young leaders with skills in green careers. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine funded these opportunities.

NATIONAL
ACADEMIES Sciences
Engineering
Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM



"[The internship] makes me even more confident to go into the realm of sustainability. In college, I'm 100% sure I want to study environmental/sustainability studies."

25-26 INTERN

Investing in Texas Educators

Texas educators are building real-world skills alongside their students. This year, EcoRise partnered with school districts, city departments, and local industry across the state to offer hands-on professional development, giving teachers new tools in sustainability, design thinking, and workforce readiness. Some of those educators go a step further as Teacher Ambassadors, training their peers and multiplying that impact across their districts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION



A DAY INSIDE SAN ANTONIO'S WASTE SYSTEM

In San Antonio this year, educators took on one of the most tangible challenges schools face: waste. In partnership with the City of San Antonio and in alignment with its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, 30 educators from districts across the region spent a day at Circular Services (formerly Balcones Recycling Center) and Atlas Organics. Educators saw how recyclables are managed, and composting experts shared how the city's organic waste is sorted, screened, and aerated at scale. The teachers worked through EcoRise curriculum resources, completing a mini waste audit and generating project ideas ranging from upcycling to worm composting to campus-wide waste reduction that they could carry back to the classroom. High school students in EcoRise's San Antonio Youth Climate Council got their own look at Atlas Organics, connecting what they saw to the city's climate plan. See page 9 to learn more about the Council's work.

VR BRINGS CLEAN ENERGY TO AUSTIN CLASSROOMS

Austin educators explored EcoRise's Renewable Energy module and hands-on tools for learning about energy sources in partnership with Austin Independent School District STEM and Zpryme. Teachers discussed what makes solar energy distinct, built solar critters and solar charging kits, and experimented with solar panels and voltmeters to find which panel placement produced the most current. The day also brought teachers into a solar farm without leaving the room. Working with Zpryme, a virtual reality company, teachers tried VR experiences that let them drive and charge an electric vehicle and walk through a solar installation from the inside. EcoRise raffled off solar kits and solar critters so teachers could keep exploring after the workshop ended.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION



GALVESTON'S OUTDOOR LEARNING LEADERS

Before the school year began, educators from every elementary and middle school in Galveston ISD spent two days at Austin Elementary as the district's new Green Campus Champions Cohort. Groundswell and EcoRise led the training as part of the Growing Galveston Program. Teachers worked through standards-aligned lessons that use gardens and outdoor spaces to teach core subjects. Each one left with a plan for a full year of place-based learning, and the district now has a group of educators ready to lead outdoor learning at their schools. Learn more about the [Growing Galveston Program](#), funded by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Gulf Research Program.

BRINGING DATA TOOLS INTO TEXAS CLASSROOMS

Professional development for Texas educators doesn't stop at the classroom door. [Gen:Thrive](#) is EcoRise's data and technology platform, connecting educators, districts, and funders with the tools they need to find partners and direct resources where they're needed most. In February, we brought that work to the 2026 Growing School Gardens Summit in Phoenix, training educators nationwide on the National School Garden Map, its newest tool. The map layers school garden locations, support organizations, and community data into a single interactive platform, giving users a way to spot patterns and ask harder questions about where garden resources have and haven't reached. The map was built through a collaboration with the SGSO Network, Edible Schoolyard, KidsGardening, and the National Farm to School Network, with funding from the USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant and the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation. It includes school gardens and garden support organizations from El Paso to Beaumont, Texas, giving Texas educators and advocates a tool to find each other and make the case for investment in their own districts. Read more about the [School Garden Map](#).



"The EcoRise training was the most fun and engaging training I had ever attended. It was so engaging, and I feel much more confident in teaching these lessons to my students immediately."

**TEACHER
CANYON RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SAN ANTONIO, TX**

TEXAS TEACHER AMBASSADORS

Celebrating its tenth year, the **EcoRise Teacher Ambassador Program** develops and activates educators as leaders in sustainability education. This year, nine Texas educators, five of them returning, joined a national cohort of 30 and teach across four regions.

In the Rio Grande Valley, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD's Denisse Ochoa and Victoria Galvan continued mentoring South Texas educators. Denisse trained all the district's librarians in EcoRise's Sustainable Intelligence curriculum and coached them through their classroom grants. Meanwhile, Victoria (seen in photo 3) and her after-school club shared seeds and knowledge with their community.

In San Antonio, first-grade teacher Erin Eggers and Northside ISD's Isaac Esquivel covered different ground, literally. Erin ran a weekly pollinator club and expanded vermicomposting at the Advanced Learning Academy, while Isaac traveled to all 83 of Northside's elementary schools, leading hands-on ecological restoration. Together they presented at the Alamo STEM Educators' Conference (seen in photo 1).

In Galveston, second-grade teacher Estefania Gomez Moreno brought her fellow teachers, and even her principal, into EcoRise, on top of guiding the Eco-Red Wolves through a healthy-snacking audit and grant project at Austin Elementary. Read more on page 5. At Central Middle School, CTE teacher Ronald Puccetti guided his students while they sought grants to revitalize their garden with new designs.

In Austin, second-year Ambassadors Alicia Kim, Lisa Richardson, and Stacey Smith (seen in photo 2) guided students through Student Innovation Grant projects ranging from coin-operated chicken feeders to campus murals and represented EcoRise at the Texas Children in Nature Network Summit and regional resource fairs.



Across Texas, teachers who are trusted to lead are building the infrastructure that lets their students and communities practice sustainability. Thank you to Southwest Airlines, the UCLA School of Education & Information Studies, and Docusign.org for investing in that infrastructure, and in the Texas educators leading it forward. Meet the **full 25–26 cohort**.

"This has been the best professional development experience I have had in my 20 years as a school teacher. Together, you are shaping the model for other organizations to follow, and you are providing us with the resources to do the same at our districts."

FOURTH-YEAR TEACHER AMBASSADOR

Partnerships in Action

None of this work happens alone. Funders, school districts, community organizations, and city governments across Texas bring students field experiences, mentorship, funding, and expertise, and the four partnerships below are a sampling of how. You'll find every partner on page 17.

FUNDING PARTNER

H-E-B: TWELVE YEARS OF INVESTING IN TEXAS STUDENTS

At the 8th Annual San Antonio Student Innovation Showcase, EcoRise honored the H-E-B Tournament of Champions as the 2025–2026 Texas Partner of the Year. Over the past 12 years, the organization has invested \$1.25 million in EcoRise's work, helping grow EcoRise from a small Austin-based initiative into a statewide leader in sustainability education. That investment has brought curricula and professional development to nearly 6,000 Texas teachers and reached more than 325,000 students, with approximately \$300,000 invested directly in Student Innovation Grant projects like the ones on display at the showcase. Beyond the classroom, we worked together to create an in-store activity book that taught kids about food and waste in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Thank you, H-E-B Tournament of Champions!



COMMUNITY PARTNER

GROUNDSWELL: GROWING OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS IN GALVESTON

Growing Galveston exists because Groundswell, formerly Galveston's Own Farmers Market, has spent years building relationships with Galveston ISD (GISD) schools and families. That foundation became a partnership between EcoRise, Groundswell, and the district, funded by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) Gulf Research Program, expanding outdoor and garden-based learning across GISD. Groundswell's Outdoor Learning Educator program delivers garden-based lessons directly to more than 800 students, while EcoRise trains educators at every elementary and middle school in the district. This year, 305 students worked in teams to write Student Innovation Grant applications, receiving \$16,956 in grants that will reach students across GISD. We're grateful to continue this partnership with Groundswell, now in its second year. [Read more](#) about the NASEM grant.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

EDUCATION PARTNER

AUSTIN ISD: SOLAR PANELS BECOME TEACHING TOOLS

In partnership with Austin ISD Sustainability and Axis Solar, EcoRise spent the year turning the district's solar infrastructure into a hands-on learning platform for students. More than 300 fourth- and fifth-graders got access to solar-focused lessons this year. We hosted Widen Elementary students at La Loma Solar Farm and the Thinkery, using Sustainable Intelligence energy lessons to compare renewable and non-renewable energy, see solar in action, and more. At the T.A. Brown Elementary Solar Summit, we helped students build solar-powered fans and contributed to a mural imagining a clean energy future. T.A. Brown is slated for new panels through a Department of Energy grant, so the students testing fan blades this spring will soon watch real panels power their own school. In February, EcoRise shared this model at the 2026 Green Schools Conference alongside Austin ISD and Axis Solar.



MUNICIPAL PARTNER

CITY OF AUSTIN AND CITY OF SAN ANTONIO: POWERING YOUTH CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

City governments are among EcoRise's most consistent partners. The City of San Antonio's Office of Resilience and Sustainability has backed the San Antonio Youth Climate Council for five years, and Austin Climate Action and Resilience has supported the Austin Youth Climate Council since its first cohort four years ago. Both offices treat these Councils as a pipeline connecting student research and advocacy to local climate work already underway. These partnerships have served 335 Council members to date. Both cities are longtime funders of the Student Innovation Fund. San Antonio also funds professional development for educators citywide through the Climate in the Classroom program, training 45 teachers this year. Formalized, mission-aligned partnerships like these give high school youth transformative leadership experiences rooted in the community they'll go on to serve.

"This is more than an educational program, it's leadership training for the next generation of problem-solvers. This program reinforces the idea that youth voices need to be at the center of climate solutions, and it gives me hope to see young leaders stepping up to the challenge."

ZACH BAUMER
DIRECTOR, AUSTIN CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE

Thank You to Our Partners Nationwide

SPOTLIGHT PARTNERS

All Points North Foundation
Austin Climate Action and Resilience
BNY
Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation
Docusign.org
Harris & Eliza Kempner Fund

H-E-B Tournament of Champions
MetLife Foundation
National Academies of Sciences,
Engineering, and Medicine
Southwest Airlines

Sprouts Healthy Communities
Foundation
UCLA School of Education &
Information Studies
Wayne Hollomon Price Foundation

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

Austin Community Foundation
Austin Energy
Central Texas Climate Philanthropy
Collaborative
City of San Antonio
Climate First Bank
Constellation Energy

General Motors
Green Workforce Collaborative
Institute of Real Estate Management
JDC Trust
Love Tito's
Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Myer Family Charitable Foundation

Niagara Cares, the philanthropy of
rPlanet Earth
One Skye Foundation
PepsiCo Recycling - Recycle Rally
Pinkerton Foundation
TLC Ingredients
Vizient

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Austin Independent School District
DC Public Schools
Galveston Independent School District
Prince George's County Public Schools
Prince William County Schools

Sacramento City Unified School District
San Francisco Unified School District
San Mateo County Office of Education
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

PROGRAM COLLABORATORS

Alamo Area Council of
Governments
Arizona State University
Atlas Organics
Austin FC
Austin Public Library
Axis Solar
The Black Feminist Project
Breakthrough Central Texas
Center for Green Schools
The Children's Haven
Circular Services
Cities Connecting Children
to Nature
CLEAN
Climate Generation

Cloud Institute
CPS Energy
Eco Centro
Environment Texas
ESC Region 01
ESC Region 13
ESC Region 20
Festival Beach Food Forest
Food Prints
Froliq
Frontline Catalysts
Gardopia Gardens
Green Schools National Network
GRID Alternatives LA
Groundswell Galveston
Illinois Green Alliance

Indigenous Cultures Institute
JJ Grant
Math for America
McDowell Sonoran Conservancy
McKinney Falls State Park
Nature Based Creations
NOAA
Nos Quedamos
NYC Public Schools
OKC Beautiful
Oklahoma Forestry Services
Oklahoma Green Schools
Parents' Climate Community
Pecan Street, Inc.
Perkins Eastman DC
San Antonio Food Bank

School Garden Support
Organization (SGSO) Network
Sierra Club
Solar Austin
Subject to Climate
Terra Lumina Consulting
Texas Children in Nature Network
The Trail Conservancy
Tree Folks, Inc.
TREEAMS
University of Texas at Austin
Urban Roots
The Village Place
Waterloo Greenway Conservancy
The Well at Tecolote
Zpryme



Thanks to your support, Texas students are taking on real challenges close to home, from school gardens to energy savings, and discovering careers they didn't know existed. We're proud to stand behind a generation of leaders who are already building healthier, more resilient communities.

To continue championing transformative K–12 sustainability education, you can:

- **Spread** the word about EcoRise,
- **Connect** us with new schools,
- **Introduce** us to new community partners, or
- **Fuel** our work with a program gift.

