



ecoRise

IMPACT REPORT

2016–17



Students at Brooke Elementary in Austin, TX raise chickens as part of an array of campus 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

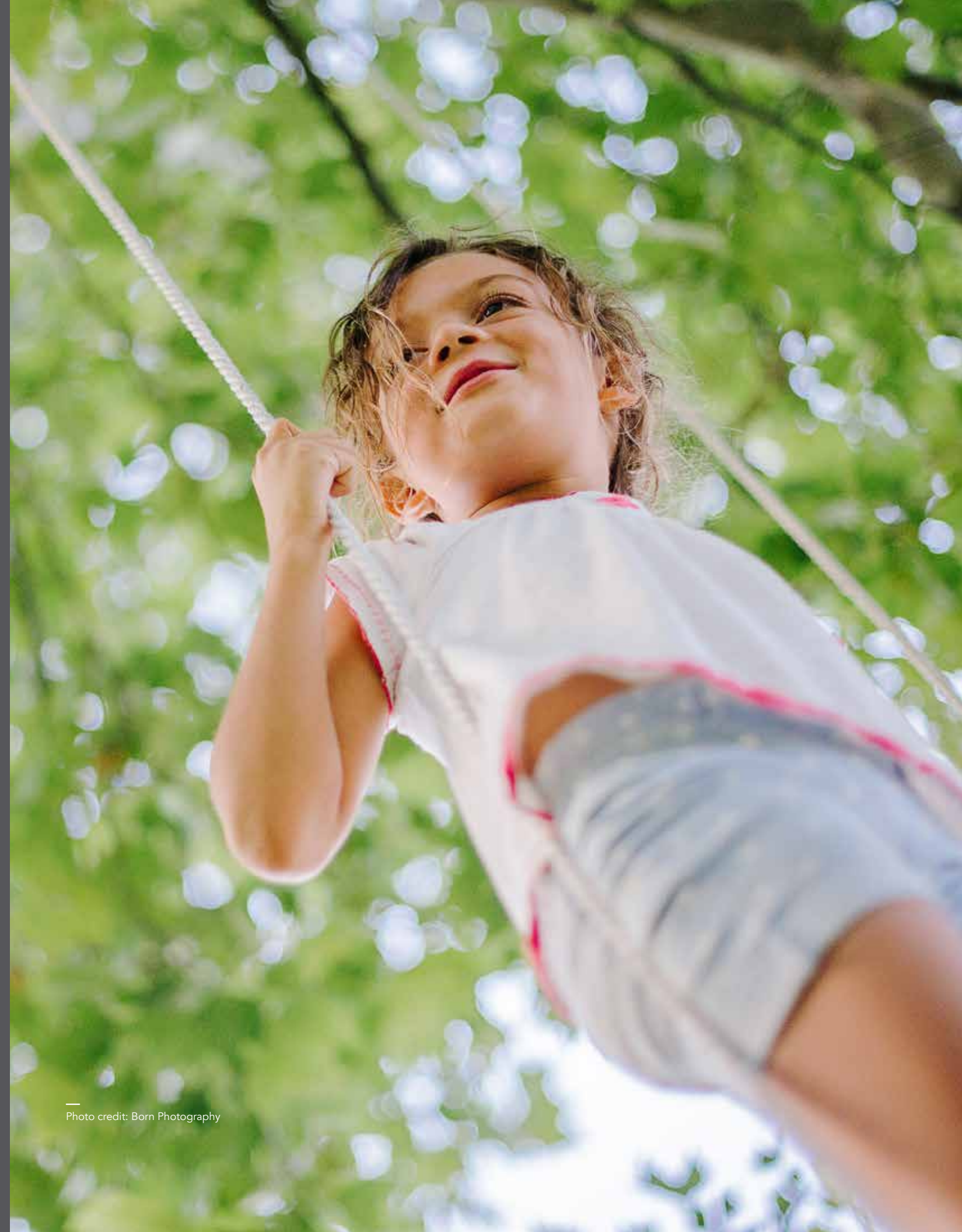
Education is the bedrock of social and environmental change.

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

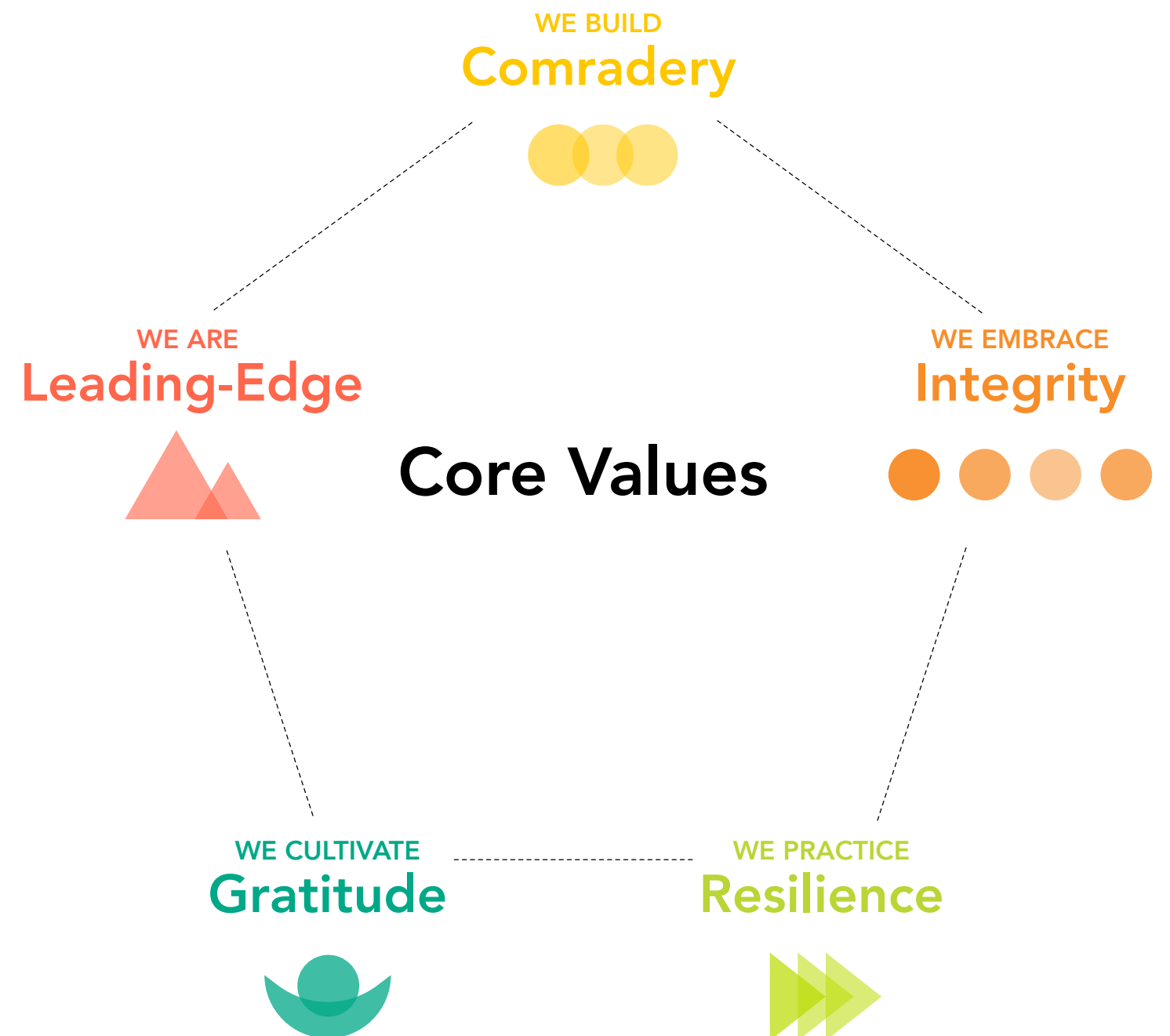
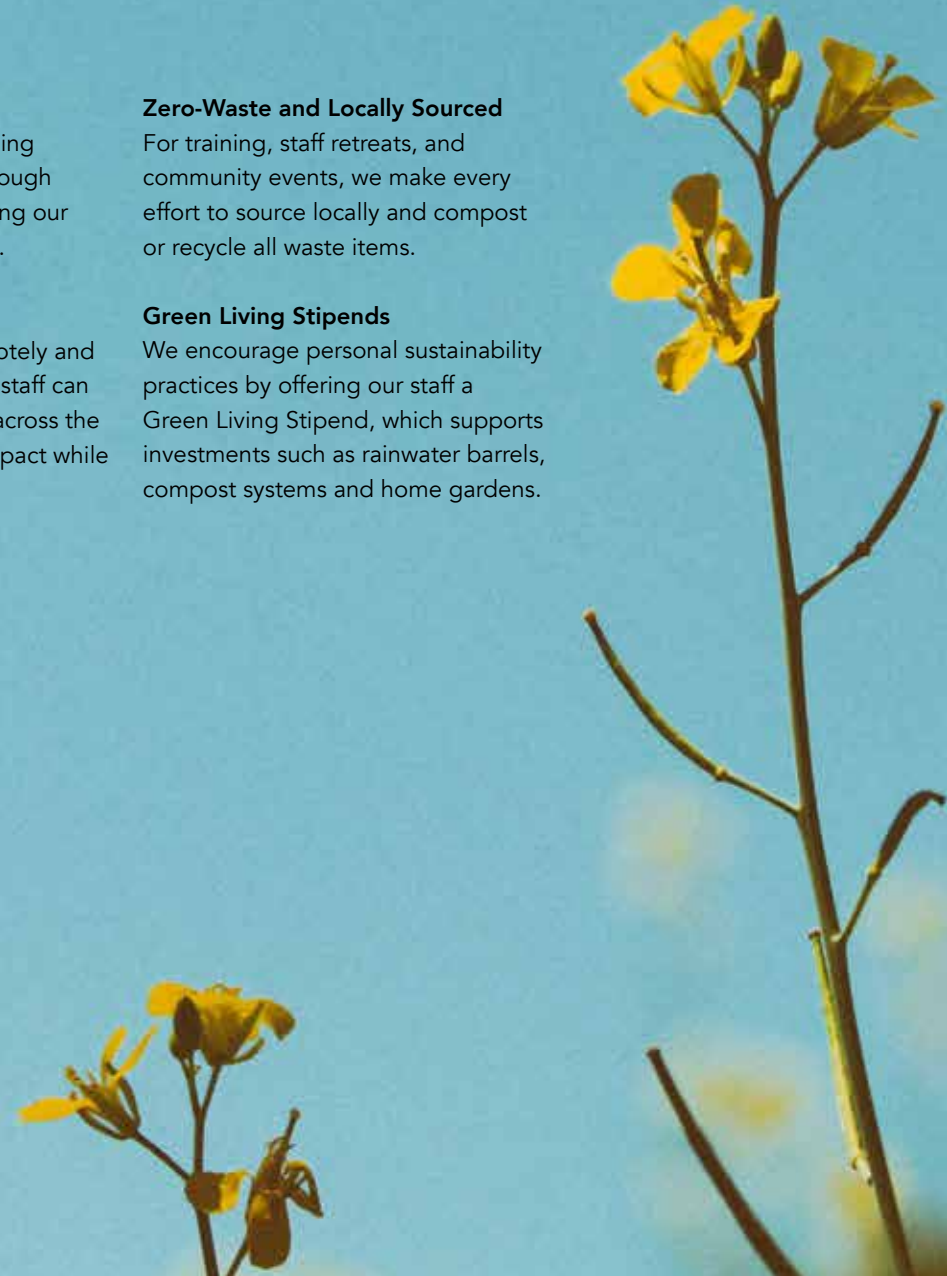
With the flexibility to work remotely and leverage technology tools, our staff can communicate and collaborate across the U.S. and beyond, increasing impact while reducing our carbon footprint.

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.

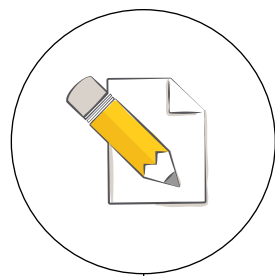
Green Living Stipends

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.

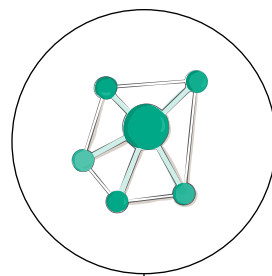


Our Program

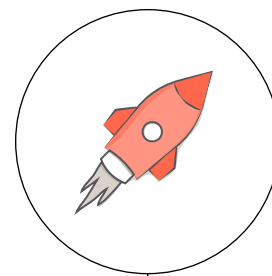
As former educators, we understand the importance of teacher support and student agency. That's why our model is teacher-first, student-driven.



**STANDARDS-
ALIGNED
CURRICULUM**



**TEACHER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



**STUDENT
INNOVATION
FUND**

“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

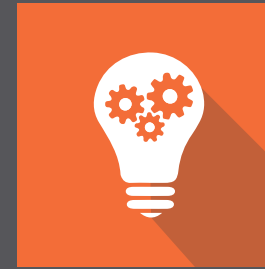
We create K–12, STEM-based curriculum that challenges students to investigate local sustainability problems and invent real-world solutions.

Through project-based activities, design labs, and campus Eco-Audits, teachers become equipped with the educational resources needed to catalyze student innovation.



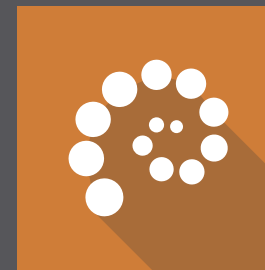
Sustainable Intelligence

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



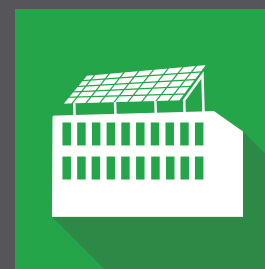
Biomimicry and Science

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



EcoPreneurship Toolkit

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



LEED Prep

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

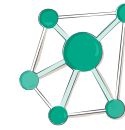


PBL Academy

Trains and supports teachers in transforming passive learning into active participation, linking multidisciplinary programs with sustainability education

“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.



Student Innovation Fund

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



IN 2016-17
EcoRise awarded
\$31,183
 IN MICRO-GRANTS
to
75 STUDENT INNOVATIONS
 WHICH CREATED NATIONAL
 DISTRICT RESOURCE SAVINGS OF
\$66,879
and engaged
53,374  *students*

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

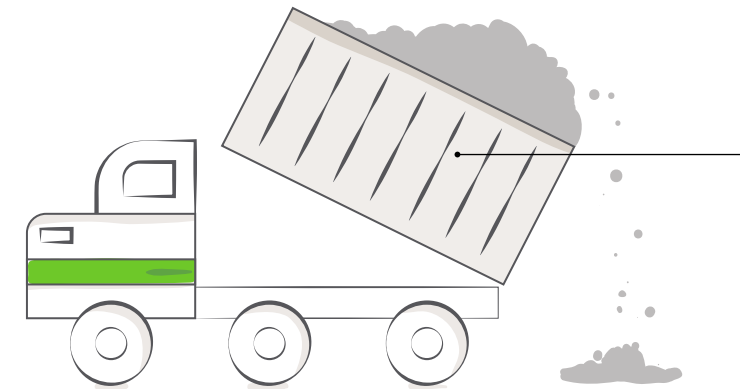
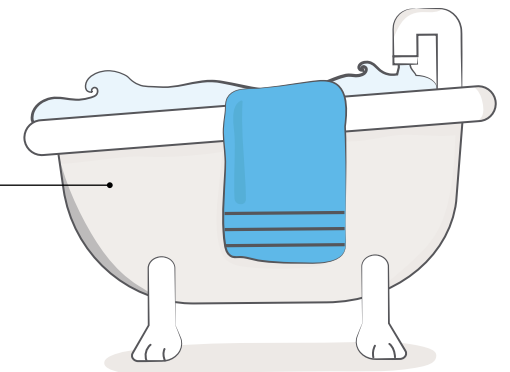
The environmental impact of these student innovations speaks for itself.



458,385 *gal*

WATER SAVED

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



1,594,655 *lbs*

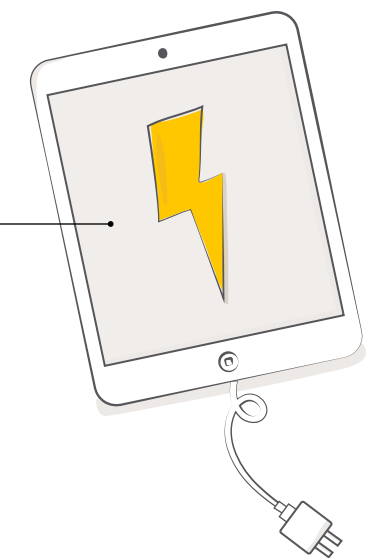
WASTE DIVERTED

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

29,826 *kWh*

ENERGY CONSERVED

(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.

Beekeeping suits, funded by an Eco-Audit grant, gave Brooke Elementary students the power to learn about and maintain apiaries at close range.





SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

A Message in a Bottle at Akins High School

Location: Austin, TX

Eco-Audit: Waste

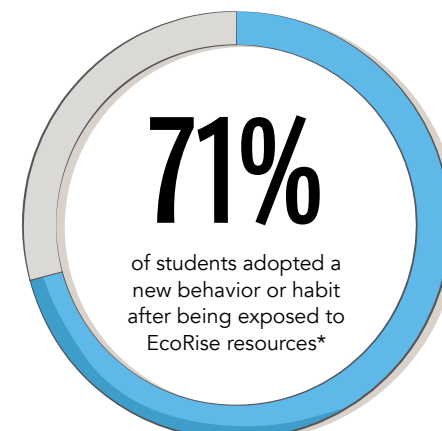
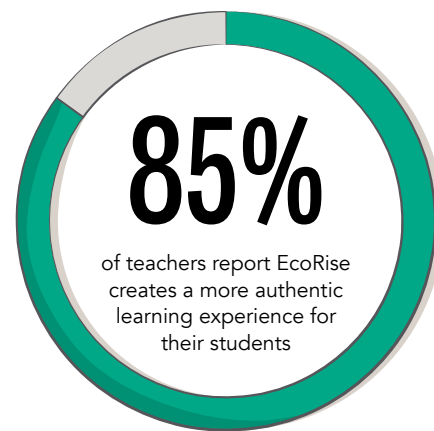
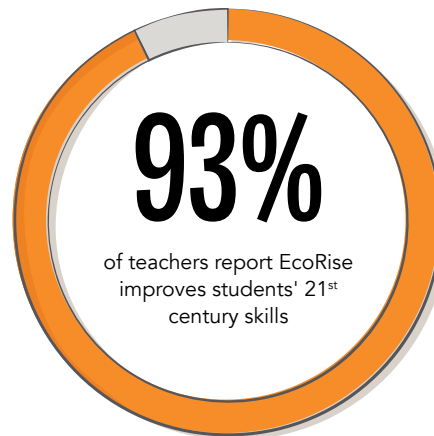
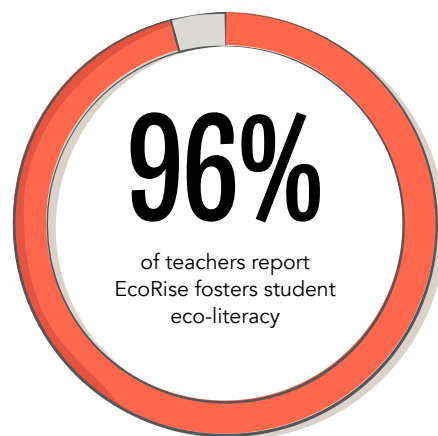
Grant Awarded: \$1,000

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.

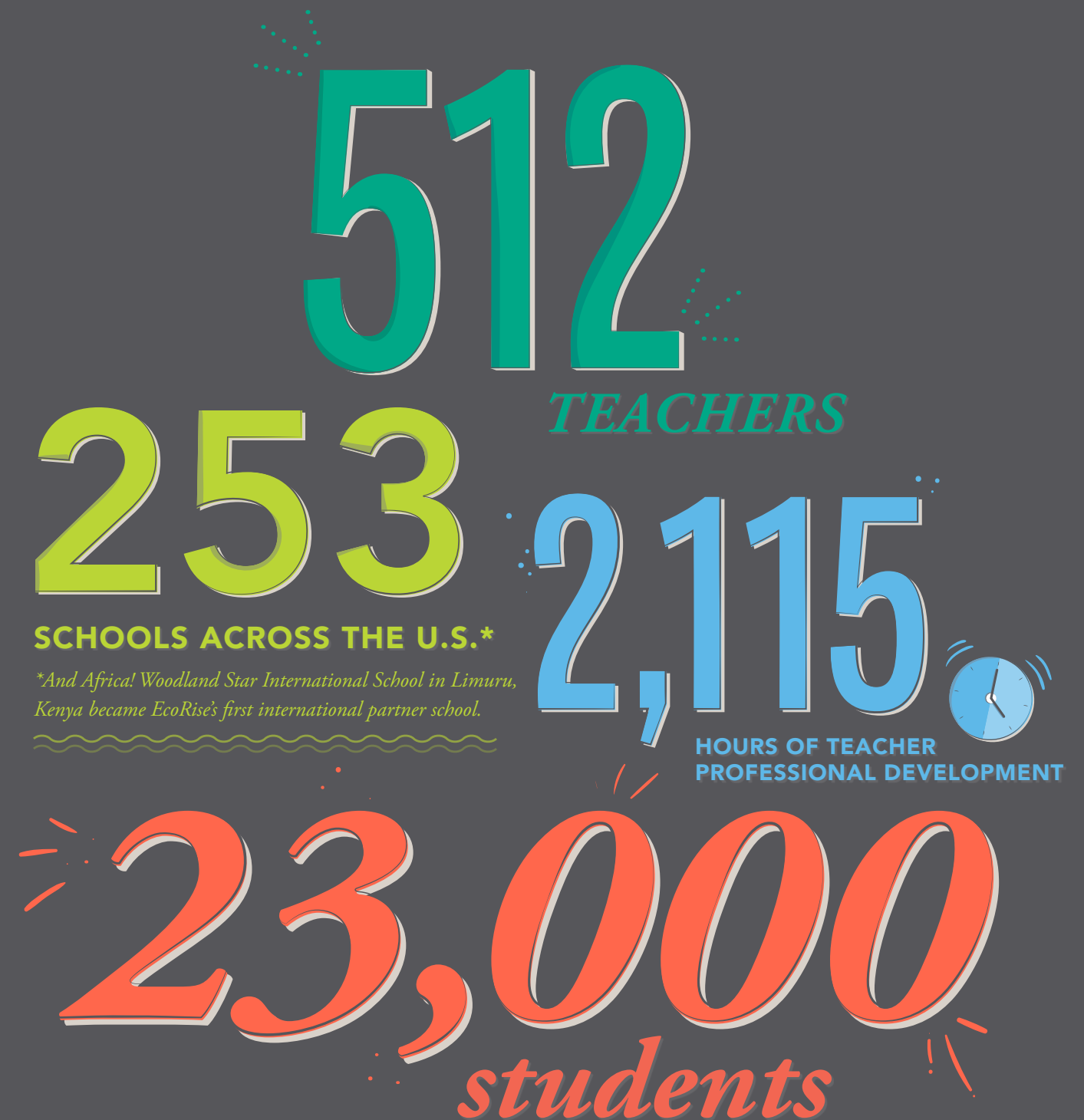
After reviewing the data, the after-school clubs Green Teens and Just Keep Livin' identified waste habits of students as the most significant issue. They studied the path of single-use water bottles on campus. The big find? If every student brought their own refillable bottle every day for a year, it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

Akins students analyze their campus map.

National Impact, by the Numbers



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





EcoRise Teacher Ambassador
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.

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.

John McClellan
Integrity Academy
Austin, TX

Diana McMillan
Mathews Elementary School
Austin, TX

Tara McNerney
Mundo Verde Bilingual
Public Charter School
Washington, D.C.

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



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.

“For city sustainability leaders looking for ways to increase their local impact, EcoRise is a perfect partner. Not only are they effective, EcoRise inspires your local community to become part of the solution.”

LUCIA ATHENS
CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER | AUSTIN, TX

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 longtime 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



1% for the Planet
Balcones Resources
BLGY Architects
Buenos Aires Café
Capital Factory
Captain Planet Foundation
Center for Green Schools,
United States Green Building Council
Children in Nature Collaborative
City of San Antonio
Collaborative for High Performing Schools
Colorado River Alliance
Department of Energy and Environment, D.C.
Department of General Services, D.C.
Dropbox
Earth Day Texas

Everybody Helping Foundation
Expeditionary Learning
Foundation Communities
Global Oneness Project
Go Local Austin
Green Schools National Network
H-E-B Grocery Stores
Hartman-Cox Architects
Healthy Pet
Huston-Tillotson University
Impact Hub Austin
Just Keep Livin'
Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center
Mission Capital
National Wildlife Federation,
EcoSchools USA

Nepri
North American Association for
Environmental Educators
Office of the State Superintendent of
Education, D.C.
Patagonia
Rackspace
Reese Foundation
Representaciones e Inteligencia Sustentable
Salesforce Foundation
St. Edward's University
SUPATX
Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
The Notley Fund
Tingari-Silverton Foundation
University of Texas at Austin

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.

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