DEAR FRIENDS,

The increasingly visible effects of climate change and pollution are taking a psychological toll on children, parents, and our communities. I feel it, as do my school-aged children. Eco-anxiety can lead to hopelessness and inaction. Our environment depends on our ability to maintain a constructive level of hope, based on trust in ourselves and in our society.

The Eco-School Network is my biggest, brightest source of hope. Network parents and students have found two ways to counteract eco-anxiety: a close relationship with nature and a daily practice of stewardship actions. Time in nature nourishes hearts and minds, while stewardship practice builds the skills and confidence that we can make a difference.

Thanks to you, parents in 89 local schools are leading school greening initiatives that engage students in nature connection and stewardship. Their energy spreads through and between schools, building trust in our collective ability to act.

As we wrap up our first full year as a nonprofit, I’m so proud of what we’ve done together. More parents than ever completed our leadership training. We diversified our community and created new revenue streams. Parents and students overcame barriers to shift school norms and ignite district level reform. Whether biking, gardening, composting, or testifying to their school board, children love to be, and need to be, part of the solution. I’m grateful to have you in our community and look forward to seeing the difference we can make together.

Warmly,

Amy Higgs, Executive Director

P.S. If you need a little shot of hope sometime this year, go to YouTube to check out the TEDx talk by Network founders Jeanne and Dick Roy: "The Practice of Hope," or call me to come visit an eco-school. It will be just the thing.
IN 10 YEARS

The Eco-School Network has grown from...

8 motivated parent leaders ....................... to 164 trained parent leaders

A program of the Center for Earth Leadership ............ to an independent nonprofit

A handful of schools .............. to 89 schools

One school district.................. to four school districts

FUELING DISTRICT CHANGE

Parent leaders have collaborated with school district staff to shrink environmental footprints in each of our four districts this year.

Portland: Food scrap composting and more plant-based options on the hot lunch menu
Beaverton: Transitioning from disposable plastic to durable silverware
No. Clackamas: Installation of milk dispensers and switching to metal utensils
West Linn-Wilsonville: School garden education and herbicide reduction

We’re proud of the progress made by school district staff. In North Clackamas, all elementary schools are now using durable utensils. In Portland Public Schools, all schools are now required to participate in kitchen food scrap collection. Congratulations, district partners!
## 2019 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>900,000</strong></th>
<th><strong>8,000</strong></th>
<th><strong>400+</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plastic utensils avoided by schools that switched to durables this year.</td>
<td>students learning and digging in school gardens.</td>
<td>student leaders on green teams.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>12 months</strong></th>
<th><strong>44,500</strong></th>
<th><strong>2 schools</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>herbicide free at Trillium Creek, thanks to family weed pulling parties.</td>
<td>Network students engaging in sustainable practices this year.</td>
<td>switched from single-use cartons to milk dispensers and durable cups.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>567 lbs.</strong></th>
<th><strong>1 new city</strong></th>
<th><strong>86% students</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>of plastic removed at annual beach clean-up.</td>
<td>engaged - all Wilsonville public elementary schools.</td>
<td>surveyed said school is where they learn about helping Earth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BETHANY ELEMENTARY

Over the past three years, sustainability has been woven into the fabric of the Bethany Elementary school community, changing the way students, staff, and families interact with their environment every day. With the leadership of Network parents Dana Strand and Angie Hamilton, Bethany models the best of what is possible when communities work together to make conservation a pillar of their identity. Thanks to 45 Parent and Student Green Team members, Bethany:

- Organizes weekly walking school busses, bike trains, and visits from the bike fairy
- Holds monthly events like book swaps, bike safety rodeos, and recycling of car seats and electronics
- Made LED lighting retrofits to save energy
- Coordinates zero-waste lunch challenges
- Organizes end-of-year school supply reuse events

Rallying around tangible actions to combat climate change has brought the community closer together. As a result, Bethany has been recognized as a Merit level Green School by Oregon Green Schools.

“There are so many stories of families making change together in our community. I have parents, students, teachers and staff approach me every day to talk about choices we can make with the earth in mind.”

— Angie Hamilton, Bethany Green Team Leader

![Angie Hamilton (left) and student green team members planting trees](image-url)
GROWING OUR REACH

We’re committed to doing our part to build a diverse, equitable, and inclusive sustainability movement and are glad to have the support of Meyer Memorial Trust. We began offering free childcare at trainings and meetings, stipends for new leaders from Title 1 schools, and inclusion and equity training for our leaders. We adopted a plan to keep advancing diversity and equity, which includes:

− Building relationships with underrepresented community members
− Decreasing disparities in sustainability education in our region
− Building diversity and equity competence among our team

We have a long way to go, but these efforts helped us add 19 new Title 1 schools to our network, where at least 40% of students are from low-income families. Welcome to all our new schools!

ECO-SCHOOL WASTE FELLLOWSHIP

With a grant from Metro, the Network launched the Eco-School Waste Fellowship this year, sparking a chain reaction of waste reduction in schools. Thirty fellows (parents and school staff) started new waste initiatives with support from experienced mentors and project funding. We are measuring the impacts of this work on the waste stream and on student learning and behavior. Results will come in February, but so far include:

16 schools switching from plastic to metal silverware
10 more schools composting food scraps
10 schools using durable dishware “party packs”
9 new recycling programs for hard-to-recycle items
7 more school supply reuse initiatives
2 schools with new milk dispensers and 2 with new water bottle filling stations.

THANK YOU METRO!

Harriet Tubman’s Climate Justice Club lobbied in Salem for tough diesel standards.

1/6 of elementary students in Oregon attend schools with Eco-School Network initiatives!
Network member Audrey Schaab has gone above and beyond in spreading a conservation mindset throughout Beaverton schools. From single school actions to district-wide practices, no change has been too small. Audrey gives generously of her time as the Beaverton Eco-School Network lead volunteer. Her support of other schools efforts has made changes possible throughout the district.

At Swallowtail Waldorf School and Farm, Audrey established a student green team, received a $1000 Eco-Schools USA grant for hand dryers, and achieved National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat Certification for the school and farm. At Westview High School, she set up a student Green Team within the marching band and helped them start composting food scraps and switch to durable “mess kits” for meals, avoiding over 2000 single-use disposable items.

As the Eco-School Network Beaverton Coordinator, Audrey is the primary Network contact for Beaverton and Washington County. She facilitates new member trainings and leads the Beaverton Steering Committee. Audrey makes the far-reaching impact of the Eco-School Network possible. Thank you to Audrey and all the volunteers making a positive impact for our communities and our planet.
DONATED SERVICES & GOODS

Alan Scott
Amy Hall
Andrea Kornegay
Audrey Schaab
Briggy Thomas
Cindy Eldkrona
Dana Strand
Dana Visse
Ella Higgs
Enchanted Forest
Estee Segal
Float On Portland
Freeland Spirits
Gabe Adoff
Gerald Scrutchions
GPSEN
Grand Central Bakery
Great Harvest Bakery
Greg Collins
Gustavo Castaneda
Heather Burns
Heather Lane
Henry Anderson
Hilary Guilliams
Hilary Shaw
Hipcooks
iFLY Indoor Skydiving
International Leadership Academy
Janice Grube
Jaylen Schmidt
Jeanne and Dick Roy
Jen Anderson
Jessie Weiler
Jenny Dampsey-Stein
Jill Inahara

Donors listed contributed between December 2018 and November 2019.

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Poa Café
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Rie Kimura
Robin Abadia
Rosa Phoenix
Rogue
Sarah Brody Webb
Sky High Trampoline
Sophia Quang
Staci Wallace
Steve Higgs
Sufferfest Beer Company
Terry Gibson
The Float Shoppe
Who Gives A Crap! Toilet Paper

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Chau Phan Mende
Jennifer Hulford-Odell
Jane Comeault
Jaylen Schmidt
Jen Anderson
Jill Inahara
Kendall KIC
Liz Erickson
Marnie Davis
Rebekah Chou
Sasha Rose

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Amy Higgs, Executive Director
Rachel Willis, Program Manager

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Dana Strand
Jen Anderson
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Lisa Bassett
Portland:
Amelia Caldwell
Estee Segal
Jane Comeault
Kendall KIC
Liz Erickson
Lindsay Kearl
West Linn:
Alysia Lauer
Nicole Alexander
Shannon Makukane

We thank each of you who contributed to our success!

Donors listed contributed between December 2018 and November 2019.

Annual beach clean-up at Fort Stevens

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