

2023 IMPACT REPORT



DEAR FRIEND,

This year, we realized that one of the driving forces behind our impact is joy. In a world of heavy headlines and climate concerns, our volunteer school changemakers never cease to inspire us. These trained parents, grandparents, and teachers pour their hearts into leading school sustainability projects with kids, and they do so *joyfully*. By tuning into the joy, abundance, and positive transformation around us (instead of the bad news), we become more resilient ourselves.

Our school projects create countless joyful moments for children. Whether they're digging potatoes, joining a walking school bus, trading bikes at a swap, planting trees, or doing a skit at an assembly, these joyful experiences strengthen social bonds, bridge gaps between groups, and fill buckets. They also create positive memories of environmental action, making students more likely to respond to future environmental challenges by taking action. These joyful experiences nurture young environmental leaders and help us shape sustainable communities.

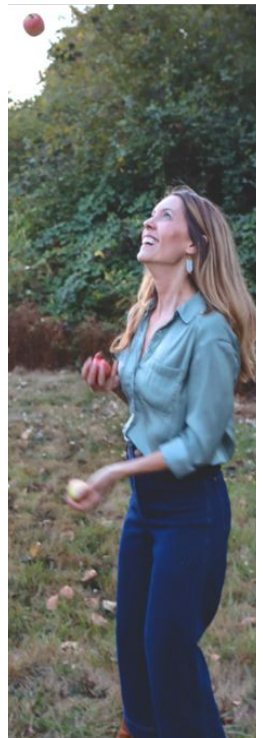
This year, we are excited to celebrate our fifth year as an independent nonprofit and 15th year greening schools! In this time, countless students and parents have transformed school cultures and daily practices. Our four local networks are thriving, with 356 initiatives engaging kids in sustainability and infusing more joy into schools while we're at it.

In September, we embarked on a journey to begin supporting elementary schools across Oregon (more below). Alan Scott became our new board chair and we added Audrey Schaab to our staff. We saw green teams start to thrive again and creative new projects emerge. Reflecting on the positive changes rippling through our network and state, we share our deepest gratitude with you for making this journey possible. Your unwavering support enables us to cultivate joy, resilience, and stewardship throughout our beautiful state.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy'.

Amy Higgs, Executive Director



CHEERS TO...



YEARS GREENING
LOCAL SCHOOLS



YEARS AS OUR
OWN NONPROFIT

"As a changemaker, I've felt this sense of joy growing exponentially each year I've volunteered. I feel like every one of them is my own kid, and I'm so very proud of the good work they do."

- Audrey, Beaverton Changemaker

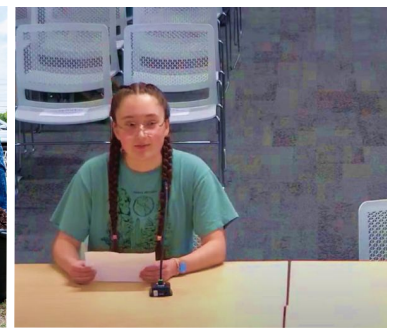


In a pivotal fall season, our expansion beyond the Portland Metro area has been more challenging *and* more rewarding than expected. Through personal outreach to 245 schools and 30 partner organizations, we offered our free changemaker training and support to K-8 schools throughout the Willamette Valley.

The response was modest in number but high in enthusiasm, with nine passionate changemakers outside our area completing our fall training (alongside 20 others from current districts). Momentum is building with statewide trainees registered for the winter. In Salem, Teacher Isabel Borrego-Rivera from Scott Elementary is forming a student green team, and William Brown from Battle Creek is creating garden beds shaped like a bear, the school mascot, for year-round learning.

To support statewide changemakers like them, a new Oregon Network is launching. Its first few online gatherings are planned, with leadership of Oregon Network Chair Kaci-Rae Christopher, a seasoned environmental educator from Sisters, Oregon.

Change that starts small can spread far and wide. Our outreach forged new relationships, introducing many to our work. This is just the beginning, and we can't wait to see far-reaching ripples of change expand to touch lives around the state.



CHEERS TO OUR CHANGEMAKERS

WHO HAVE DESIGNED AND LED SCHOOL GREENING PROJECTS WITH KIDS

Robin Abadia • Holly Abrahms • Misty Adcox • Marguerite Aichele-Smith • Mandy Aird • Nicole Alexander • Jen Anderson • Sarah Aspholm • Robert Atkinson • Kalei Augustine • Mark Babson • Lori Bacon • Rye Baerg • Serena Baker • Gina Ballard • Julia Barnett Ayles • Hilary Barrett • Lauren Barton • Mari Bartoo Jacobson • Lisa Bassett • Lorrie Bazzi • Gwyn Benders • Ginny Benware • Christina Bertalot • Lissett Bickford • Lindsay Blake • Julie Blue • Andrea Bonard • Anne Marie Bracco • Laura Bracke • Beth Brdlik • Bree Anna Brewer • Doug Bridge • Jeffrey Briley • Sarah Brody Webb • Cat Buckley • Cat Buckley • Carrie Bui • Nadya Burchette • Gypsy Burks • Dava Burrill • Britni Cacan • Ryan Cain • Amelia Caldwell • Marisol Camacho • Laura Carver • Allyson Casey • Livia Castrucci • Erin Chabuk • Amy Chamberlain • Michelle Chau • Rebekah Chou • Janice Chow-Ng • Rachel Chu • Emily Ciesielski • Mary Closson • Amy Coats • Jennifer Collett • Cathrine Collins • Jane Comeault • Kari Cook • Jeri Corbett • Kim Cotter • Chrissy Cralen • Heather Crawford • Courtney Cronk • Sharon Crowland • Amy Culp • Jamie Daggett • Misten Daniels • Marrie Davis • Vanessa Deets • Mark Delaney • Klarissa Delehant • Jenny Dempsey • Caryn Dennis • Dominique DeSpain • Cindy Devine • Paige Dickson • Adriane Driscoll • Krista Dunn • Naomi Easton • Sara Eddie • Irene Edwards • Shelby Ekstrom • Cindy Eldkrona • Melica Ellerbrook • Laura Elvers • Marissa Emery • Adam Emery • James Eppley • Liz Erickson • Kellie Ernst • Abra Faraon • Jeanne Farber • Wendy Farber • Jacob Faust • Patsy Feeman • Anna Ferguson • Kelly Finneran • Erin Fish • Samantha Fishman • Deborah Fleskes • Jessica Fletcher • Amanda Florio-Everly • Angela Fojtik • Rebekah Folsom • Lynne Fowler • Cheryl Fretz • Kristina Garcia Siegel • Carol Gardner • Carolyn Garnett • Amber Geiger Morgan • Sherry Genauer • Adrienne Glen • Tatiana Goz • Pritha Golden • Matt Gonshorowski • Julia Gray • Andi Gresh • Lisa Gribby • Becky Gross • Janice Grube • Rachel Guevara • Andrea Guillet • Maruti Gupta • Meg Hagan • Jessica Hagedstedt • Amy Hall • Angie Hamilton • Shelley Hamilton • Katie Hamm • Natalie Harger • Krista Harmon • Michael Harmon • Amy Hash • Cilicia Hatch • Stephanie Hayes • Kirsten Hays • Kati Heckman • Tiffany Hellum • Nicole Hernandez-Mars • Karina Hersherberg • Dave Hetherington • Ken Hiatt • Amy Higgs • Jennifer Hilton • Luchi Hise • Nicole Hoffman • Janna Holm • Vanessa Holmgren • Jeff Horne • Scott Huber • Charity Hudnut • Jennifer Hulford Odell • Tracy Hulleman • Danae Hutson-Lipinski • Juliet Hyams • Jill Inahara • Erin Inolan • Patricia Isler • Sheila Jackson • Jamie Jacobsen • Jenna Jay • Jennifer Jensen • Robin Jensen • Katia Jesson • Kenneth Johnson • Erin Johnson • Katja Jones • Romi Jones • Genevieve Joplin • Deborah Jutz • Page Kalkowski • Kim Kaminski • Lindsay Kearn • Erica Keeley • Jill Kehoe • Katie Keller • Sybil Kelley • Audra Kelvin • Rebecca Kennedy • Kendall KIC • Helena Kilstrom • Rie Kimura • Joe Kitterman • Vera Kibleeva • Katrina Knewton • Reshmi Koikkara • Andrea Korneyag • Vesna Kostur • Lori Kovacevic • Carlye Krohn • Alaina Labak • Rinny Lakin • Sonia Lal • Cam Lam-Huckaba • Monique Lance Priscilla Lane • Heather Lane • Becky Lanford • Katie Lang • Ulla Langer • Barb Larison • Kendra Larson • Gina Lascink • Carter Latendresse • Alysia Laurer • Mike Leon • Alexis Lessard-Templin • Sunny Lessenden • Celeste Lewis • Katy Liljeholm • Tara Lilley • Alynda Lingwood • Leslie Logan • Natalie Loomis • Amanda Luell • Glee Lumb • Kathy Lundeen • Morgan Lutz • Pam Lyons • Jenn Maddox • Shannon Makuakane • Denise Manzi • Karen Margolis • Ruthann Marquis • Kirstin Martin • Anna Martucci • Mike Matheny • Kara Matson • Rebecca Matsumoto • Nancy Matthias • Massene Mboup • Betsy McCarthy • Scott McClain • Janelle McCreddie • Adriana McCulloch • Meaghan McGlasson • Nicole Merino • Meredith Middaugh • Telly Miles • Katherine Nicole Miller • Sabrina Miller • Christy Miller Kuziensky • Elizabeth Milner • Amy Minato • Courtney Modesitt • Nicole Moes • Ben Morelli • Claire Morency • Kristin Morgan • Malinda Mueller • Melissa Mulder-Wright • Riki Murphy • Nicole Murray • Will Musser • Iris Nason • Traci Nguyen • Helena Nissen • Jenn Nowak • Audrey O'Brien • Angel O'Brien • Mary Lynn O'Brien • Lynda O'Neill • Kelly Oetting • Raelynn Olesberg • Jeff Oliver • Kim Olsen • Nancy Pagaduan • Samantha Parlier Smith • Cyndie Peltó • Terie Penland • Brandy Penner • Christina Perron • Heather Petzold • Chau Phan Mende • Dharshini Pillai • Becky Pio • Misty Plock • Liesl Plomski • Rekha Prakash • Kate Prakash Edward Prindle • Debbie Puhl • Alison Puntun • Brenda Purvis • Angie Rademacher • Mish Radtke • Teresa Raine • Liz Ranweiler • Katie Reed • Heather Reid-Day • Jamie Repasky • Akiko Revay • Janda Rhea • Devin Richards • Colleen Richardson • Phil Richman • Nancy Richman • Leah Robb • Annalisa Romano • Jane Rombouts • David Ronen • Nichole Rose • Sasha Rose • Josh Rosenbaum • Jeanne Roy • Pauline Ruegg • Donna Russell • Beth Russell • Katelin Ryan • Sarah Ryan-Knox • Suzy Rylander • Renn Sanderman • Lindsay Sandor • Jason Sandys • Joan Sanford • Audrey Schaab • Jaylen Schmitt • Heidi Schrimsher • Harmony Scofield • Estee Segal • Erin Seitz • Katie Selby • Stephanie Selinger • Jenna Sells • Erin Severe • Sue Shade • Alicia Shaw • Talia Sheldon-Desjardins • Elin Shepard • Emily Short • Emily Short • Brandy Siegrist • Sarah Silva • Emily Silverstein • Ana Simantel • Kate Simonutti Alma Siri • Suzanne Sloan • Libby Smith • Erik Sorensen • Manju Sree • Sriharini Sridhar • Elizabeth Staly • Mary Starrs • Katharina Steinmeyer • Pamela Stekly • Barbara Stettler • Stefanie Stewart • Micki Stone • Dana Strand • Evelyn Sum • Jelena Susic • Patrick Sweeney • Jocelyn SyCip • Jessamy Taylor • Lily Todd • Taryn Tomasello • Janwyn Toy • Lisa Traxler Shontell Truevette Diehm • Connie Umphress • Deborah VanDette • Kristin VandeZandSchulp • Heidi Van Middlesworth • Dana Visse • Joy Vicko • Tracie Vogel • Jennifer Vondrachek Lisa Waddick • Anna Wagner • Staci Wallace • Jodi Walters • Cami Waner • Tanya Ward • Autumn Webring • Jessie Weiler • Teresa Weis • Korrin Weldon • Alexia Wellons • Elisa Wells • Kristin Wesel • Julie Westerman • Kelly White • Alice White-Cyr • Faith Wildermuth • Renee Wilkinson • Allison Wilkinson • Tiffany Williams • Tiffney Williams • Michele Wittig • Karen Wolff • Sarah Wong • Rachel Wong • Kamala Wymore • Stephanie Yao • Tammy Yashar • Emily Zahniser • Mike Zimmerman • Tuk Zimmermann • You all rock • Thank you, thank you.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHANGEMAKER, ADULT SKILLS

Among the Eco-School Network's latest group of trainee changemakers there are moms, dads, educators, retirees... and a 14-year-old -- our youngest changemaker yet!

Eliot Krohn is an eighth grader at Rachel Carson Middle School. Eliot is no stranger to the Eco-School Network. He participated in the Network's student advisory group and spoke at our 2020 virtual fundraiser, cows grazing in the field behind him. The cross-country runner is also on the cover of the Eco-School Network Recipe cookbook, with a recipe for his vegan quinoa enchiladas. Fun fact: Eliot follows a mostly vegan diet, inspired by a slide on his mom's computer about ways to help the environment.

His mom, Carlye, is a champion changemaker who led Green Team projects at Chehalis Elementary. Eliot told the Zoom room of adult trainees, "What inspired me to take the training was my mom, and all the energy she created for our school."

Eliot is considering several projects to benefit his school community. Due to his interest in plants, he is most excited to create an outdoor classroom where students and teachers can have a comfortable place in nature for year-round field and garden studies. We can't wait to see the change he makes. Congrats to Eliot and all our newest Eco-School Network Changemakers!



BEAVERTON TEENS LEAD DISTRICT CLIMATE ACTION

With no district-wide climate action plan in Beaverton, Sunset High's Climate Club took matters into their own hands. Fueled by concern for their future and recent passage of the Portland Public School's climate policy, the teens found support from their teacher Mr. Brown and a Beaverton Eco-School Network committee led by Audrey Schaab.

They drafted a well-researched policy that includes energy and resource conservation, renewable power, a shift toward electric school buses, sustainable foods, and hands-on climate solutions practice for students.

The policy spells out support for frontline communities and for student mental health challenges from climate change.

Last spring, the group presented their draft policy to the school board, then met with the superintendent. Co-author Alanya Abou-Elmajd (above right) shared, "Our vision is for everyone to treat our home delicately and learn to live sustainably." The group is working with the Eco-School Network committee to gather feedback and refine the policy. Their journey, marked by diligence and a commitment to a sustainable future, is a testament to the power of the youth voice in the climate movement.



OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR



196,000

pounds of food
waste prevented



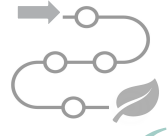
3

district policies
advanced



40,000

students engaged



356

active
greening projects



245

Oregon schools
individually invited



24,198

kids learning
in gardens



63

title I schools
supported



10,706

lbs of litter
picked up by hand

THE GREAT TURNING FUELS CHANGEMAKERS

How does a nonprofit with just a few paid staff engage tens of thousands of students? We keep our network of volunteers strong by recharging and reconnecting at the annual changemaker retreat. There, we always find a blend of new skills and ideas, inspiration, and magical moments. This year's magic was the workshop: *Into the Great Turning: Reconnecting, Recharging, Recommitting*. Crafted with care by Jeanette Swafford and presented by changemakers Kristina Garcia-Seigel and Marissa Emery, the workshop invites us to actively practice hope as we move through our lives.

In the winding path that is a changemaker's journey, the Great Turning is a guiding star. Coined by Joanna Macy, The Great Turning is a shift from the extractive Industrial Growth Society to a life-sustaining civilization where human needs are met while respecting the planet. Millions of people (like those in our network) are doing the work of sustainable living and systems-shifting daily.

At the workshop, we grounded ourselves in nature, reflected, and shared insights. We noticed our climate grief, not as a burden, but as a catalyst for change. We had conversations that connected us with other changemakers, recognizing the power and collective strength created by being present for each other in the Great Turning. At the end, Marissa remarked, "I felt much more hopeful about our collective futures. That hope is a deeply valuable tool." We left the retreat not just recharged but with hearts full and hope ablaze – for another year of changemaking.



TRASH BUSTING FOR GREEN, CLEAN SCHOOLS



In recent years, school trash troubles have become a barrier to outdoor learning and a danger on walk and bike paths. In the saga of battling the litter, graffiti, and sharps invading school-yards, Eco-School Network changemakers and students emerged as superheroes, armed not with capes but with trash grabbers and dedication to a clean, safe environment.

A league of parent volunteers planned clean-ups and related improvements at 18 schools serving low-income families, motivating thousands of kids, families, and neighbors to clean up 43 blocks, schoolyards and school walk and bike routes. With support from Metro's Regional Refresh Fund and in partnership with AdoptOneBlock, our Network lent out "clean-up kits" with all the trash bags, gloves, and graffiti-busting potions needed.

Beyond the aesthetic impact, the project connected communities and empowered even the littlest students as stewards. One parent testified, "It was amazing how it helped kids gain a sense of pride and ownership, a work ethic, and interest in helping with upkeep." Some schools even started *daily* clean-ups, with mini eco-warriors on a high-suspense recess hunt for ever-more-elusive trash bits – reaching their grabbers through fences and storm drains while learning the joy of making their space safer, cleaner, and fit for wildlife.

IVY VS. IMAGINATION

At North Clackamas' Seth Lewelling Elementary, an inventive changemaker named Heather Lane orchestrated an ambitious outdoor makeover with students. They envisioned a healthier, cleaner schoolyard ecosystem and more beautiful space, but the invasive English Ivy taking over the schoolyard was staggering and litter didn't help. After learning that only vertically growing ivy could sow seeds, they decided to start by removing the ivy clinging to trees.

Heather put out the word, and staff, families, and neighbors came to pitch in. Still recovering from pandemic isolation, wrestling 900 pounds of ivy off the trees turned out to be just the thing to build and strengthen bonds between friends new and old. The clean-up was one of the most successful school events ever, based on attendance and impact.

Parents and staff also wanted to make the expansive exterior school wall blend in with the environment. Their solution? A vibrant nature mural! Heather sends a heartfelt shoutout to the Metro Refresh Fund and Portland Street Art Alliance for supporting this project with Eco-School Network. As ivy bows out, imagination, community, and native wildlife can now take center stage.

"The kids got to see an enormous, beautiful piece of art go up step by step. The artist worked with students on drawings for ideas. Everyone had a blast. This project was a lesson in how the big work in our world doesn't have to feel so challenging!"

- Heather Lane



GRANTS & AGENCY FUNDS

Juan Young Charitable Trust
Metro (Regional Refresh Fund)
Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust
The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
The Jackson Foundation
The Oregon Community Foundation

BUSINESSES & ORGS

\$1000+

Backyard Bird Shop
Intel
Impact Deposits Corp.
KPFF
Mercer Advisors
Nathan D. Young Construction
Neil Kelly
Owen Gabbert LLC
Portland Nursery
Providence Health Service
Perkins Coie
PAE Consulting Engineers

\$500+

DBA Blue Sky Wellness Studio
Earth Day Oregon

\$100+

Silver Oak Advisory
Ainsworth PTA

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS OF \$5,000+

Cherida Collins Smith
Diane Ponti and Ward Greene
Jeanne and Dick Roy
The Mugwump Trust

GIFT OF \$2,500+

Ann McQuesten
Barbara Woodford & Tom Kelly
Celeste Lewis
Gun Denhart
Kendall KIC and Kenneth Shults
Lory and Paul Utz
Patricia and David Page

GIFTS OF \$1,000+

Audrey and John Schaab
Carol and Tom Shults
Carrie and Don Bui
Dharshini Pillai
Gerald Hulsman
Gloria and John Bennett
Greg Macpherson
Gwyn and Nic Benders
Jane and Chad Comeault
Jennifer & Charles Lockwood
Jessica and Bryan Fletcher
Joyce and Paul Schwer
Karen and Donald Livingstone
Kirsten and Dan Hays
Marcile Bates Cowlins Fund
Mary Kathryn Thompson
Rachel Willis
Robert James
Tina and Bill Brown
Truman Collins

GIFTS OF \$500+

Adriane and Jim Driscoll
Alan Scott
Amy Culp
Amy and Steve Higgs
Anne and Brian Freeman
Bill McAllister
Bree Anna and David Brewer
Briggy Thomas & Mark Buchanan
Celeste Lewis
Elaine and Bill Hallmark
Erroyl Hawley
Gigi and David Ditz
Jeanette Swafford
Jill Inahara and Mark Alan Fujii
John Ashworth & Joyce Bernheim
Mary Lynn O'Brien
Michael Ponder
Patricia and Chester Wolter
Ronald Kalina
Scott Thayer
Susan and Carl Petterson
Willo Oswald

GIFTS OF \$250+

Bala Cadambi
Barbara (Emma) Dugan
Barbara and Bill Stalions
Beatrice Hedlund & Steve Bruckner
Beatrice Hedlund Charitable Fund
Charity Hudnut
Cheri and Mike Unger
Cindy Schafenbuel
Claire Carder & James Scherzinger
Dana Visse

GIFTS OF \$250+ CTD...

Deb Butzen
Ellen Stearns
Frances Hicks
Gayle Palmer
Ginny Benware
Gwen Woodward
John Estrem
Julie Young
Karina Hershberg
Kristen and Tom Wesel
Laura and Phil Moran
Leslie Johnson
Linda Kirschbaum
Lisa Blum
Mary and Mason Pratt
Michelle Slater
Mitzi King
Nancy Pagaduan
Penny and Peter Serrurier
Philip Quarterman
Rene Rutz and Robert Zdebski
Ruthann and David Marquis
Sarah Ryan Knox
Tamara Crocker and Randy Sell
Virginia Feldman

GIFTS OF \$100+

Amber Geiger
Amelia Caldwell
Amie Riley and Joe Buck
Amy Blumenberg
Amy Tilley
Ann and Joseph Maylie
Ann Shannon
Barbara Holisky and Gary McDonald

DONORS LISTED GAVE BETWEEN 11/1/22 AND 11/1/23. THESE INCLUDE EVENT TICKETS.

GIFTS OF \$100+ CTD...

Betty Shelley
Carlye and Wendell Krohn
Carolyn Garnett
Carolyn Gassaway
Christie Wiancko
Connie Van Dyke & Rod Endacott
Dana Sturdivant
David Brook
Diane Henkels
Edward Campbell
Elisa Wells and Seth Moran
Elizabeth Goodman
Estee Segal
Farleigh Wada Witt
Jane and John Emrick
Janice Chow Ng
Jennifer Anderson
Jennifer and John Grosvenor
Jim Kennedy
Joel Ario
John Goveia
Joshua Lighthipe
Jane & John Emrick
Kate Prakash
Katherine McAnulty
Kathleen Rutter
Kelly and Sean Stevens
Lisa Onstad
Lonnie & Terence Shumaker
Lori and Paul Kovacevic
Lori Davidson
Marissa and Adam Emery
Mary and Michael Klein
Mary Sievertsen
Melinda Coats
Michael Heumann
Michelle Stone
Mike Mercer
Mishelle and Steve Radtke
Morley Knoll

GIFTS OF \$100+ CTD...

Nancy Coons
Patricia Chandler
Rand Schenck
Rick (William) Seifert
Rick Reynolds
Samuel Sirkin
Sue Warninghof
Sydney Mills
Tricia & Doug George
William Gross

IN-KIND GIFTS

Abra Faraon
Amber Geiger
Ana Simantel
Ayla & Nele, fortune tellers
Bonnie & Steve Smitherman
Brew Dr. Kombucha
Camille Barron
Carole Spencer
Carrie Bui
Charity Hudnut
Cheryl Carbone
Cindy Eldkrona
Donny Bui
Drift Inn
E-Bike Multnomah Falls
Eli Schaufenbuel
EMA Architects
Emerald Line
Estee Segal
Ever Massage Therapy
Flynn the Magician
Georgia Bascom
Gwynne Woodward
Heather Lane
Henry Anderson
Jaylen Schmitt
Jeremy Thomas
Junie, contortionist

IN-KIND GIFTS

Kaci Rae Christopher
Kat Davis
Kathleen Rutter
Katy Buddeke
Keen
Kendall KIC & Kenny Shutls
Kristy Speciale
Landon and Ken, dancers
Linda Kirschbaum
Lindsay Kearl
Liz Erickson
Lorelei & Ruby, tiger & tamer
Luna Abadia
Mikka, gymnast
Next Adventure
Overleaf Lodge & Spa
Patagonia
Pat Wolter
Paul Bascom
Phoebe Anderson
Ruthann Marquis
Sabrina Miller
Sarah Brody-Webb
Sarah Ryan-Knox
Shannon, singer
Sylvia Beach Hotel
Taeyon Rose
Terri Rottman
Vanessa Holmgren

STAFF

Amy Higgs, Executive Director
Sasha Rose, Program Coordinator
Audrey Schaab, Operations Director

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

Celeste Lewis
Jeanne Roy
Jen Anderson

STEERING COMMITTEES

Beaverton

Adrianne Driscoll
Audrey Schaab
Becky Gross
Marissa Emery
West Linn-Wilsonville

West Linn-Wilsonville

Alysia Laurer
Joy Vicko
Kristina Garcia
Misten Daniels
Shannon Makuakane

Portland

Ana Simantel
Christina Bertalot
Jane Comeault
Korin Weldon
Sasha Rose

North Clackamas

Carrie Bui
Celeste Lewis
Genevieve Joplin
Jason Sandys
Lisa Bassett

BOARD

Alan Scott
Ann McQuesten
Briggy Thomas
Celeste Lewis
Dharshini Pillai
Jeanne Roy
Jeremy Thomas
Julie Shulga Young
Karina Hershberg
Mary Lynn O'Brien
Sarah Brody Webb

ALL-SCHOOL GREEN TEAM BRIDGES CULTURE

You've heard of student green teams and school work parties — but what about adding harp music, Peruvian dancing, and a commitment to turn the whole body into a giant green team? That's just what Portland's Ainsworth Elementary has done. Covid halted school composting, and the restart was slow, with student skills being rusty. So Eco-School Network Changemakers Vera Klebleeva, Pam Stekly, and Kristen Morgan made a plan. At the school Earth Day Celebration, with 250 participants and flamenco dancers, they arranged for Principal Johnson to call on all students to become better stewards, bestowing a new title on them: they are now Ainsworth Earth Defenders, or Defensores de Tierra in Spanish. He even texted all families the call to action.

The cafeteria impact was immediate. Students clambored for a role as lunch waste sorting monitors. Classes that sorted carefully won pajama days! The Custodian Alfonso "Jojo" Arboleda was key to the program's success. Staff and teachers have buy-in, lunchroom signs celebrate Earth Defenders, and sustainability is now part of mealtime culture.

To welcome diverse families into greening efforts, the Green Team planned a unique "Culture Meets Nature" series of work parties. "We're cleaning ivy and restoring native plants. We're all living on the same planet. All cultures respect and celebrate the Earth," says Vera Klebleeva, changemaker and team co-chair. "With half the students in the Spanish-immersion program, all our events are about bringing the community together." Parents and students work for an hour, then learn how Earth is celebrated in a different culture each time through music, dance or art — like Pacha-Mamá wooden miniature structures.

Over 100 native trilliums bloomed on school grounds thanks to their ivy clearing! They've built a culture of sustainability from the bottom-up and top-down. Their efforts are making Earthcare fun for everyone.



eco-school
NETWORK

GIVE

ecoschoolnetwork.org/donate

LEARN MORE

www.ecoschoolnetwork.org

VOLUNTEER

ecoschoolnetwork.org/volunteer

REFER A LEADER

email amy@ecoschoolnetwork.org

GET THE NEWSLETTER

email audrey@ecoschoolnetwork.org