



Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors



# ECOsystem REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021



ECOLOGY IN CLASSROOMS AND OUTDOORS  
INSPIRES STUDENTS TO CARE FOR NATURE  
AND THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH  
HANDS-ON SCIENCE EDUCATION  
AND CLIMATE ACTION.

As I look back on 2021, I do so with gratitude. The challenges we encountered were real and through it all our ECO community came together like never before to provide hands-on science education for students throughout Oregon and beyond.

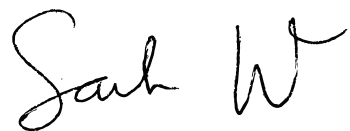
Last year, ECO's Board of Directors and staff agreed that the organization is evolving and as a result our new mission is - to inspire students to care for nature and their local communities through hands-on science education *and climate action*.

We agreed that as educators we can impact climate change by developing curriculum to increase students' understanding of the global systems that are affecting our climate.

The desire to address climate change resonated deeply with our community, generating 170 donations through the Give!Guide Campaign for Climate Action, including 120 new ECO supporters.

In 2022, with your generosity, we will launch our Climate Action curriculum for middle and high school students. This incredible outcome is a direct result of your partnership. Together we can inspire each other to leave the legacy of health and well-being for our children, grandchildren, and the generations to come.

With gratitude,



Sarah Woods  
Co-Founder and Acting Executive Director





Delivered

82

Lessons & Field Trips

Engaged

2,980

Students

Learn at Home

355

Members

Place-Based Units

53

Teachers

## In-School Programs

ECO educators engaged almost 3,000 young ecologists around Oregon in hands-on ecology and outdoor experiences in schoolyards, state parks, and local natural areas. Students learned about the hydrological cycle, food webs, animal adaptations, and the importance of native plants and healthy soil. In addition, ECO added Climate Action Education to our curricula to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards, scientists, and advocates who will care for our planet in the years and decades to come. The Climate Action Education program is designed for middle and high school students and includes a foundational lesson “Climate Science and Action” as well as extension lessons that take a deeper dive into topics such as renewable energy, biodiversity conservation, and climate justice.



## Place-Based Units

ECO Place-based Units are modeled after the proven, hands-on lessons our educators deliver in classrooms and schoolyards. Each unit is classroom-ready and includes an ECO Adventures video that inspires science-based learning. The comprehensive, grade appropriate units make it easy to teach ecological concepts and integrate the learning across math, English language arts, social science, and art. In 2021, ECO educators developed and delivered 14 ecosystem-specific units on topics including pollinators, native plants, beaver adaptations, wetland food webs, and the water cycle. Units were created for 53 teachers across eight schools, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and local Watershed Councils.

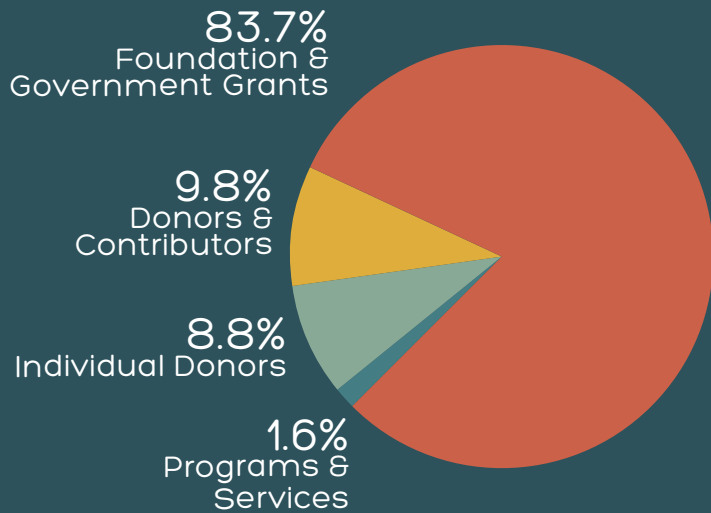


## Digital/Virtual Engagements

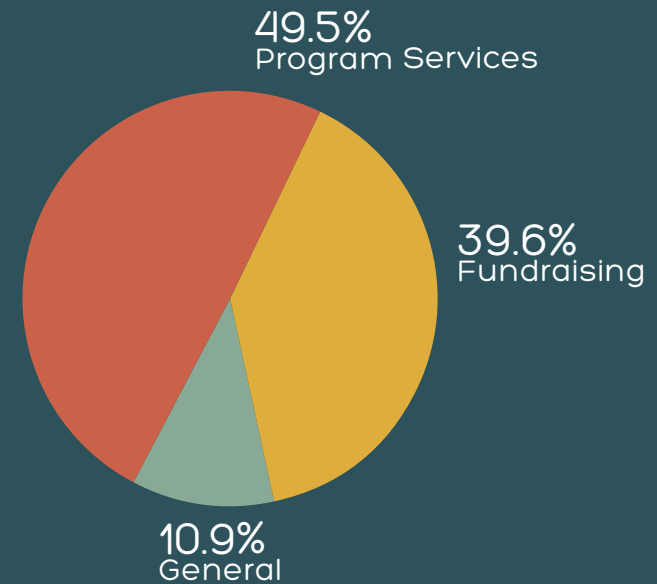
ECO educators engaged students through online learning platforms and presented lessons on plant identification, soil inquiry, watersheds, wetland food web, and climate action. ECO also created two virtual field trips at natural areas in Portland and Oregon City featuring local plants and animals. Our Learn at Home program was developed and launched in 2020 to make sure that the students, teachers and families in our world stayed engaged with nature. More than 350 members used 12 different lessons available on ECO’s website for free. Learn at Home’s website traffic grew by more than 160% in just one year and reaches people across the globe.



## INCOME



## EXPENSE



# Skyline Land Donation

In 2020, ECO was the fortunate recipient of a land donation in Northwest Portland. As proper stewards of this incredible 77-acres of native forest, ECO worked throughout 2021 to better understand the land as well as the plant and animal communities that call it home. We also took time to learn how we can put this gift to its best and highest use for climate action, for ECO's mission, and for the people whom we have come to know as neighbors. More news will come in 2022.



Thank you to the staff and board members who  
contributed to ECO's success in 2021

### Staff

Sarah Woods - Co-founder & Acting  
Executive Director  
Julie Baweja - Program Director  
Reade Weber - Grants & Project Manager  
Amelia Corbari - Regional Program Manager  
Claire Baldwin - Development &  
Communications Manager  
Alexandra Gordon - Program Manager  
Olivia Clingman-White - Multimedia Producer  
Christopher Peñuelas - Educator  
Monica Smiley - Development Director  
Wendy Mitchell - Senior Development Advisor

### Board

Jess Martin - President  
Wasim Muklashy - Secretary/Treasurer  
Bethany Thomas - Co-founder  
Amber Clark  
Brian Dunnaville  
Jami Haaning  
Mindy Stutzman  
Rachel Rudwall  
Desi Nicodemus  
Eugene Nicholson



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