

2022 ECOsystem Report



Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors

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More than 90% of students who participate in ECO programs believe they are capable of positively benefiting the environment.

THIS IS YOUR IMPACT.



2022. WHAT A YEAR!

Our programs regained some 'normalcy' this past year, and the challenges that covid presented largely passed (sigh of relief). Most importantly - thanks to our community - the crucial work of delivering hands-on ecology programs for students in the Portland metro area continued.



Our students consistently tell us how much fun they have and, along with their teachers, ask for more, more, more ECO. We will deliver! The goal to make our programs accessible to a broader audience grew legs in 2022 with the launch of www.teachECO.org, our online curricula platform. Soon, we'll be running.



The collective impact of our community is far-reaching. Our students are having fun while learning skills they will carry throughout their lives and the literacy to respond to the opportunities and challenges in their communities.

We are excited and grateful to do this work.

THANK YOU.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- In-person programming across Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties.
- In October we launched www.teachECO.org, a hub for our curriculum and a resource for educators.
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District began sharing our Place-Based Units (PBUs) to teachers in their service area.
- We received a gift from The Ford Family Foundation to build PBUs for the Siuslaw Watershed Council for use by their education coordinator and area teachers.
- We began securing copyright and trademark status for our PBUs for use by classroom teachers in and outside our service area to expand their capacity as educators of environmental science.
- We partnered with This is My Earth (TiME) to create an open-source lesson, Biodiversity Conservation in Action.



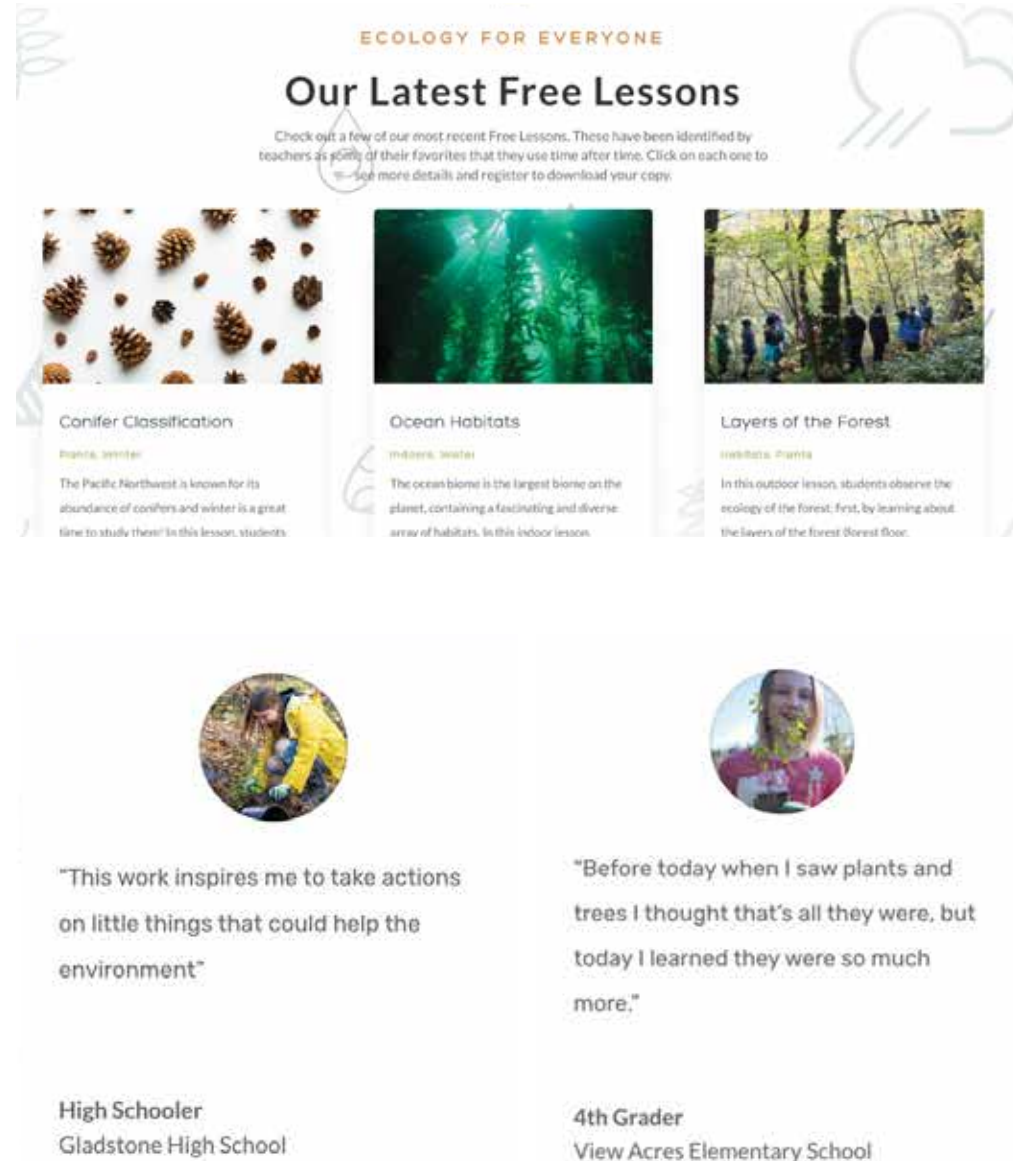
ECOLOGY FOR EVERYONE!

In October, we launched www.teachECO.org, a hub for educators and learners to access hands-on ecology lessons and activities.

It is a versatile vehicle for our mission, taking us where we could not previously go. This milestone extends our reach into rural and underserved communities across the region with access to our top-notch curriculum.

Our very own Olivia Clingman-White developed this indispensable tool in-house with feedback from educators, creating an integrated membership experience for ECO's 500+ online users.

Connect your student to nature with [free ECO lessons](#) »




The screenshot shows the 'ECOLOGY FOR EVERYONE' website. At the top, it says 'ECOLOGY FOR EVERYONE' and 'Our Latest Free Lessons'. Below this, there is a paragraph: 'Check out a few of our most recent Free Lessons. These have been identified by teachers as some of their favorites that they use time after time. Click on each one to see more details and register to download your copy.' There are three lesson cards: 'Conifer Classification' (with a pine cone image), 'Ocean Habitats' (with an underwater image), and 'Layers of the Forest' (with a forest image). Below the cards are two circular profile pictures of Olivia Clingman-White, each with a quote and her name and school.

ECOLOGY FOR EVERYONE

Our Latest Free Lessons


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Conifer Classification

plants, winter


The Pacific Northwest is known for its abundance of conifers and winter is a great time to study them! In this lesson, students



Ocean Habitats

indoors, water


The ocean biome is the largest biome on the planet, containing a fascinating and diverse array of habitats. In this indoor lesson,



Layers of the Forest


outdoors, plants

In this outdoor lesson, students observe the ecology of the forest, first, by learning about the layers of the forest floor.



"This work inspires me to take actions on little things that could help the environment"

High Schooler
Gladstone High School



"Before today when I saw plants and trees I thought that's all they were, but today I learned they were so much more."

4th Grader
View Acres Elementary School



2520
Students

500+
Online
Members

146
Field
Experiences

71
Classroom
Lessons

12
PBUs
Delivered

PLACE-BASED UNITS

Today, place-based knowledge is more important than ever. Existing inequities across communities and the lack of access to outdoor spaces result in our increasing disconnection from nature.

According to Discover the Forest, “The average American child can recognize 1,000 corporate logos, but can’t identify 10 plants or animals native to [their] own region.”

Our dedicated educators continue to develop our library of classroom-ready, elementary Place-Based Units (or PBUs for short) to integrate science concepts across social science, English language arts, math, and art. These comprehensive tools allow teachers to engage their students in high-quality, hands-on, indoor, and outdoor lessons that deepen the connection to their place.

In 2022, our self-contained kits were used by 53 teachers across 8 schools, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed councils.



Photo courtesy of Wasim Muklashy

“The kids absolutely loved the beaver lessons! I’ve been quickly doing 1-2 per day - boy do they have the beaver adaptations down! I am very interested in more lessons!”

Sarah, Mapleton Elementary 3rd/4th teacher after teaching the Beaver Adaptations PBU



COLLABORATION

In partnership with The Wetlands Conservancy and Wisdom of the Elders, ECO developed a two-part lesson, Introduction to the Land, to highlight historical injustices, empower students to engage in land conservation efforts, and see themselves reflected in stories about the land.

The lesson utilizes best practices from Next Generation Science Standards, National Geographic Geo-Inquiry Process, the National Geographic Learning Framework, Senate Bill 13's Tribal History/Shared History Curriculum, and the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan.

ECO educators engaged 2520 young ecologists around Oregon in hands-on ecology and outdoor experiences in schoolyards, state parks, and local natural areas.



CLIMATE ACTION IN ACTION

ECO is at the forefront of Climate Action curricula. Students asked for a plan to combat climate change and we, with the support of our community, responded with Climate Action curriculum units.

The six-part series includes two open-source lessons, Climate Science and Action and Biodiversity Conservation in Action, in partnership with This is My Earth (TiME). Additional topics in the series cover Renewable Energy, Climate Justice, Consumption & Waste, and Built Environment, complete with tangible goals to achieve actionable change. In addition, ECO created and developed The Climate Change game with plans to begin distribution in 2023.

In 2022, ECO's Climate Action Education Program directly reached 11 teachers and 720 students.

720
Students

11
Teachers

Connect your student to nature with
[free ECO lessons](#) »

INCOME

71.1% Foundation & Government Grants

4.7% Programs & Services

24.2% Individual & Corporate Donors



EXPENSE

47.72% Program Services

19.81% Fundraising

32.46% Operations



WE'RE A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM, THANKS TO YOU.

In 2022, our ECOsystem was generously gifted more than \$338,000 throughout the year to support 2,520 students in classrooms, online, and in natural areas that helped them understand the connection between nature and their own lives. Individual donors, local Oregon businesses and corporations, foundations and government agencies, school districts, and other nonprofit organizations all contributed to our mission to ensure the next generation of environmental scientists, advocates, and stewards are empowered to tackle climate change and the related issues coming their way.

We're grateful to all of our ECOsystem partners that financially support our staff in their direct engagement with teachers and students for the sake of both people and the planet.

STAFF

Lara Jones, Interim Executive Director

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BOARD

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Rachel Rudwall





ECO inspires students to care for nature and their communities through hands-on science education and climate action.

Thank you for making our work possible.