

IMPACT REPORT

2021-2022



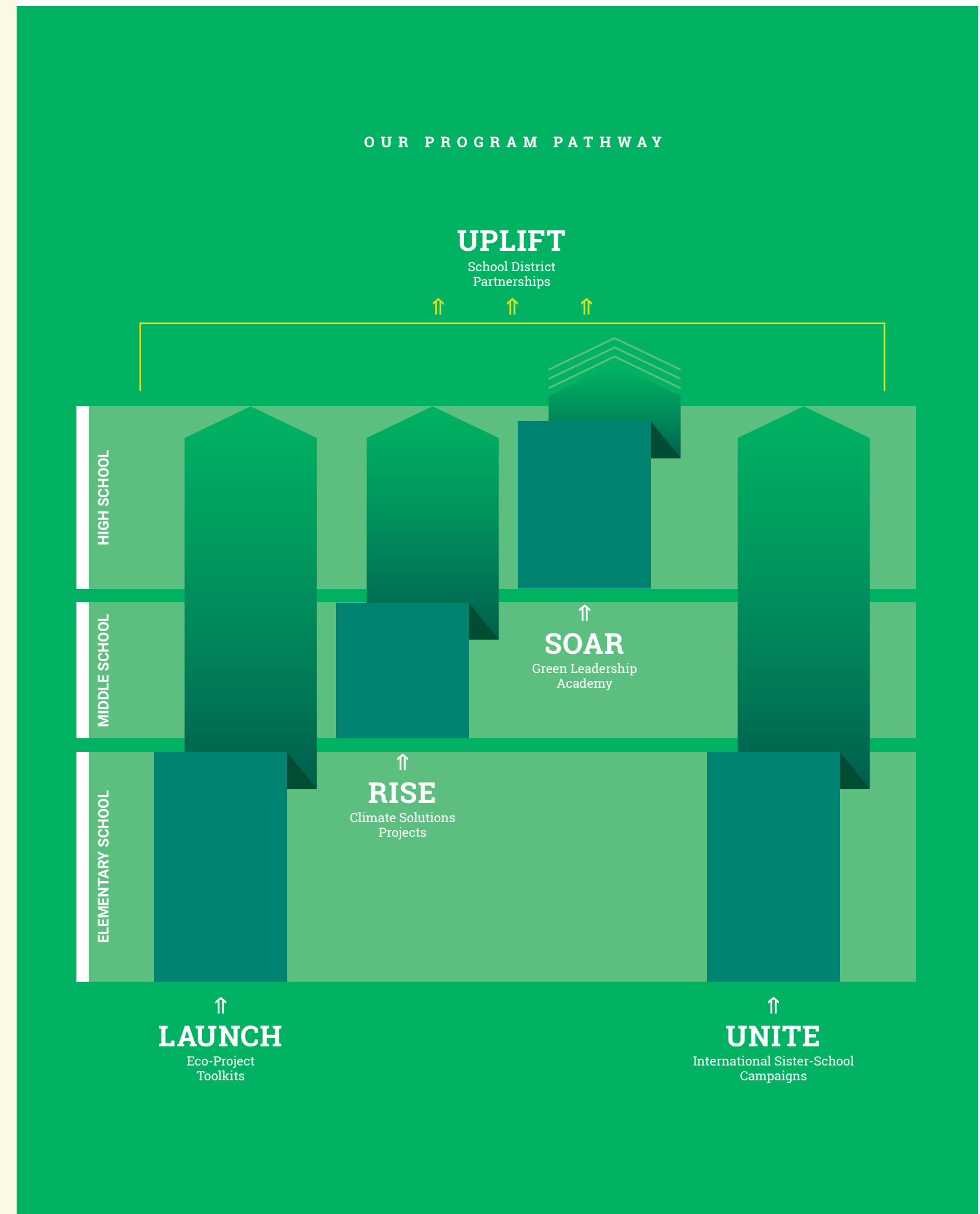
Grades of Green has been engaging, educating, and elevating students since 2009 to create meaningful environmental change locally and globally.

This year, three of our new programs took flight! In addition to offering our award-winning RISE Climate Solutions Campaign, we introduced LAUNCH Eco-toolkits, UPLIFT District Partnerships, and UNITE Global Sister School Partnerships to continue advancing our goal of providing free, equitable programs for ALL students and teachers around the globe. The impacts students made through these programs in their inaugural year are sure to impress and inspire!

We also readied the SOAR Eco-Innovation Academy to take off in the 2022-2023 school year. Students chosen through an application process will have the opportunity to realize their environmental potential by exploring a variety of industries and learning eco-innovative practices from diverse corporations, organizations, and civic entities. With mentorship and real-world guidance from Grades of Green staff and corporate partners, these students will collaborate to help develop and drive better environmental standards and outcomes for industries today and for generations to come.

Furthering our efforts to provide equitable and meaningful programs to all, we embarked on a year-long process of research, program analysis, and metrics review and found a lack of focus and commitment in communities most negatively impacted by environmental factors. We were also able to identify schools that come from low income and environmentally disadvantaged communities and launched the Environmental Justice Initiative to reach those students. All programs now have learning modules and activities to teach students about environmental justice, how it affects different communities, and opportunities to affect positive change where most needed.

In the 2021-2022 school year, Grades of Green student Eco-Leaders were empowered to turn their environmental aspirations into a reality through our programs, reaching over 37,000 fellow classmates. We are thrilled to share our students' and educators' inspiring stories and we look forward to supporting this generation of environmental leaders as they continue their work to make transformative environmental changes.





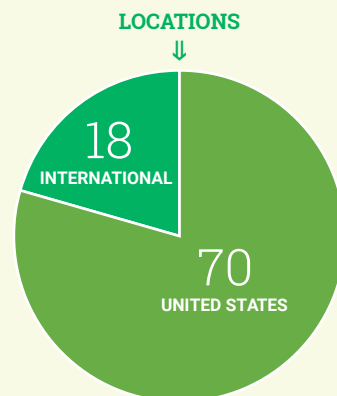
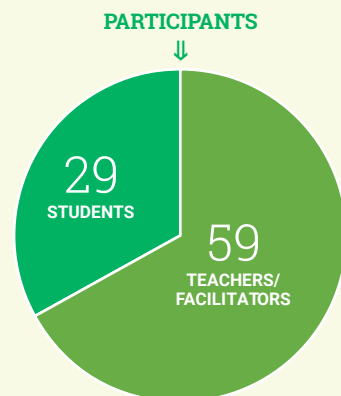
LAUNCH

Project Toolkits

Our LAUNCH Project Toolkits were created in the Fall of 2021 for educators and students looking to implement an eco-project in their school and community. All 32 Toolkits are aligned with NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) and fall under at least one climate topic: Waste, Food, Water, Plants/Animals, or Transportation/Energy. Accessible to all, this program is completely online and free for users. Each Toolkit contains educational resources, step-by-step instructions to take action, reflection questions, and worksheets.

Each Toolkit also highlights how the climate topics relate to environmental injustices and how their project can have an impact on Environmental Justice (EJ) in their community. Within the LAUNCH program is GATE Academy which involves students in the Inglewood School District – an EJ community.

This year, through LAUNCH, we were pleased to award stipends totaling \$1,050 to five teachers. Our educator stipends are allocated to provide schools with additional resources aimed to further their environmental advocacy on campus. Resources include new sorting stations and reusable water bottles for students.



↑
IUSD GATE STUDENTS picking up trash at Inell Woods Park in Los Angeles, CA using our Community/Beach Clean-Up LAUNCH Toolkit.
 ↓



↑
EDDIE M. cleaning up Siminki Park as part of the "Trash Treasures" Group at his school in Inglewood, CA.
 ↓

"I liked learning more about how to keep my community healthy. I liked how many resources it provided."

MORGAN D.
 LAUNCH Student, Adopt-A-Spot Toolkit
 Cozier Middle School
 Inglewood, CA

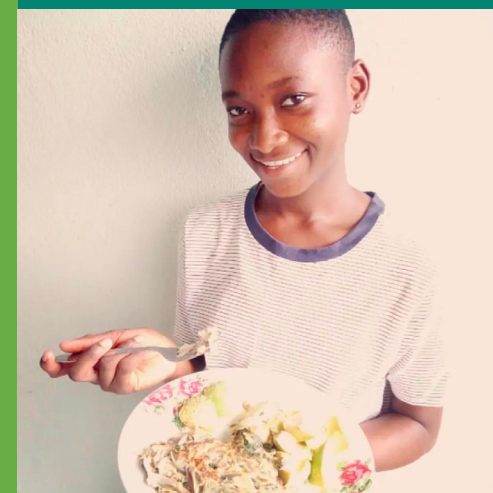
7,522
 PEOPLE EDUCATED

1,767
 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

"The best part of working with Grades of Green is the constant encouragement that we receive. It makes us know we can do a lot just with the little resources we have."

VIRGINIE NTCHE
 Teacher/Facilitator

↓
AYUK M. from Buea, Cameroon sharing her plant-based meal for her team's Meatless Monday Campaign.
 ↓



525
 MEATLESS MEALS

588
 POUNDS OF FOOD DIVERTED

312,250
 PIECES OF TRASH PICKED UP

39
 TREES PLANTED

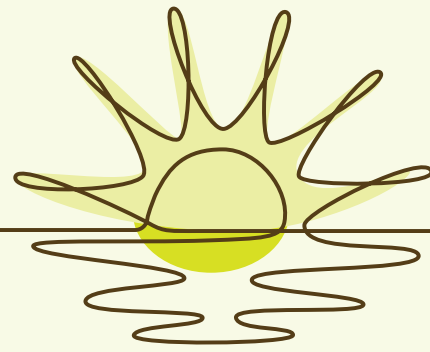
563
 TRASH FREE LUNCHES
 PACKED BY STUDENTS

700
 POUNDS OF WASTE DIVERTED

11,900
 SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

149
 STANDBY APPLIANCES UNPLUGGED

190
 POUNDS OF CO2 DIVERTED



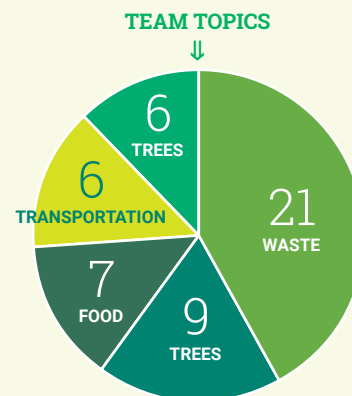
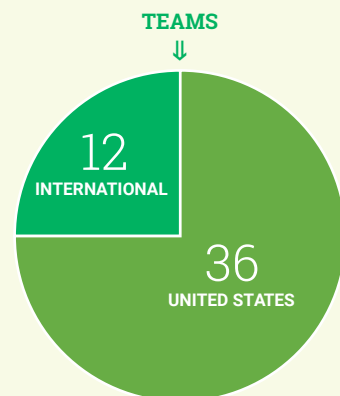
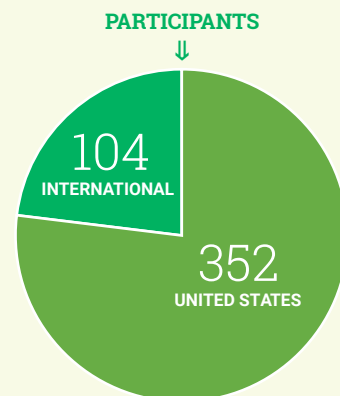
RISE

Climate Solutions Campaign

The RISE Climate Solution Campaign empowers teams of students through a school-year long, guided program to create long lasting environmental impacts in their communities. Participating students are paired with a Grades of Green advisor who provides them with personalized guidance and mentorship as they move through a four phase program to learn about five climate crisis topics and choose one to focus on. From there they will pick a project relevant to their community, create a plan, and take action. At the end of the Campaign, each team reports their metrics and impacts back to Grades of Green and top teams are awarded Eco-Grants to further their environmental solutions in their communities.

This year, through RISE, 10 Student teams were awarded Eco-Grants totaling \$7,500 and 13 teachers were awarded \$4,750 in stipends. In addition to learning about environmental issues, participants gain leadership skills and advocacy tools to become lifelong environmental leaders.

Along with detailed information in the Campaign Guidebook about climate change, students participating in the RISE Campaign also learn about Environmental Justice during the campaign. EJ is a part of the education section for each of the five crisis topics. Furthermore, during the campaign's mid-year webinar, a guest speaker presented about how environmental justice relates to the climate crisis.



103,917

PRESS & MEDIA REACH

99,071

COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED

35,385

STUDENTS REACHED

"Thank you for giving my team such great opportunities to change the world. Each year your program/campaign truly motivates my team and gives them power. With the experiences they have working on the climate change campaigns with Grades of Green, they truly feel empowered. They ARE changing the world!"

KERRY FLORES
Teacher/Facilitator
Mary Bragg Elementary School
Cerritos, CA

MALEZI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY in Nairobi, Kenya had students cleaning and educating their community about waste management.



"I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from so many great people. The mentors I have had over the years have made my environmental journey so satisfying. I am thrilled about everything our club has achieved and I am committed to continuing our success."

SAMANTHA T.
Grades of Green Eco-Leader
Mira Costa High School
Manhattan Beach, CA



↑ **MARY BRAGG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CERRITOS, CA** Students from Mary Bragg Elementary took action with a beach cleanup in Long Beach, contributing to a cleaner coastline.

5,719

TREES PLANTED

230

TONS OF CO2 REDUCED

4,989

POUNDS OF TRASH PICKED UP

31

ACRES OF LAND PRESERVED

93,920

POUNDS OF GARBAGE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS

3,370

GALLONS OF WATER SAVED



UPLIFT

School District Partnerships

UPLIFT took flight this year! UPLIFT is our district-wide partnership program that's designed to help districts reach their environmental goals and multiply community impact. Working district-wide we provided hands-on lessons, innovative programs, fieldtrip resources, as well as staff and teacher training. Our UPLIFT program is developed to facilitate compliance with California's new organic waste recycling legislation (SB 1383) implemented through our student-led programs.

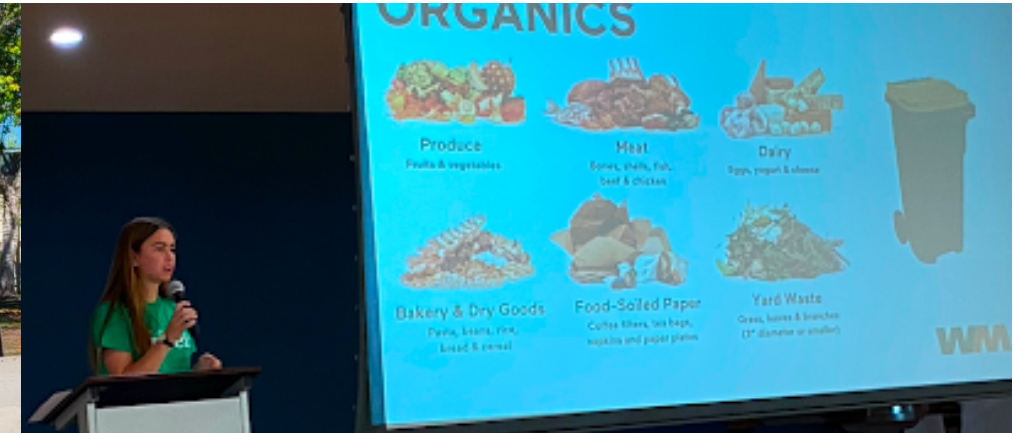
Long Beach Unified School District

UPLIFT's newest partnership included interactive and hands-on educator training, workshops and stipends for teachers at the district level. 33 educators participated in two workshops on waste reduction in the Long Beach Unified School District in April as a part of their "Earth Month Challenge". Teachers who implemented a waste game or Eco-Toolkit in their classroom received stipends totaling \$2,100. Thank You to Waste Management and the City of Long Beach!

Inglewood Unified School District

Grades of Green worked in partnership on planting Kelso Elementary School's garden in the fall. In partnership

with Kellogg Organics, a team from Grades of Green helped students at Kelso Elementary school plant an edible garden which will continue to educate and nourish the Kelso community for years to come. In addition, Grades of Green partnered with Inglewood Unified School District's (IUSD) GATE Academy to provide environmental education and support student projects. One hundred students met bi-weekly over the course of 10 weeks to learn and collaborate on different LAUNCH Toolkits. Students participated in discussions surrounding energy consumption, waste issues, environmental justice and more. In smaller groups, they completed one of three toolkits: Energy Audit, Community/Beach Clean-Up, or Adopt-a-Spot. As they completed their projects, they prepared and delivered impactful presentations about their accomplishments during a culmination event. In the spring, over 80 of the GATE Academy students toured the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's (LACSD) wastewater treatment plant, drove through a landfill, got an inside look at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), and talked to scientists and engineers about water science and environmental careers. This was an eye-opening, hands-on learning experience on how Los Angeles County manages waste.



↑
WHITNEY S.
Grades of Green Eco-Leader

On March 8th, 2022, Whitney S. presented to the Manhattan Beach Neptunian Society on the city's new food waste recovery program. Through their waste hauler, Waste Management, residents are able to place food waste in their green bins to be recycled into compost. Whitney provided members of the Neptunian Society with information on the environmental impacts of food waste, an overview of the Waste Management program, and detailed instruction on how to properly sort their waste.

↑
ORGANICS WASTE DIVERSION & RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Grades of Green's Organic Waste Diversion and Recovery Program is a new program designed to help school districts achieve compliance with California's recycling, organic waste diversion, and edible food recovery laws.

Effective on January 1, 2022 Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) requires schools and local education agencies to prevent, reduce the generation of, and recycle organic waste. SB 1383 requires California to reduce organic waste disposal by 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025 from the 2016 level.

Additionally, effective on January 1, 2024, schools and local education agencies with an on-site food facility will be required to recover edible food. 20% of currently disposed edible food must be recovered for human consumption.

Grades of Green's Organics waste diversion and recovery program will partner with districts to provide free resources, consulting, and guidance to facilitate food waste reduction and edible food recovery through student-led programs.



←
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT in California created two waste reduction workshops in April as a part of an "Earth Month Challenge." 33 educators lead the activities which drew participation from 952 students.

1,007

PEOPLE EDUCATED

952

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

"After doing this activity, I learned how crucial it is to recycle items that could be left in landfills for thousands of years. I now am determined to recycle as much as possible. This way, the world can be a lot greener and safer environment."

OLIVIA
Middle School Student





UNITE

International Sister-School Program

In partnership with This Little Light Africa, Grades of Green facilitated an international sister school program during the Spring of 2022. During this time, Mary Bragg Elementary in Cerritos, California connected with Government Secondary School Tundunwada located in Abuja, Nigeria. Through videos, emails, and live Zoom meetings, students from both schools were able to create meaningful, individual connections while learning about the beauties of each other's culture. In addition to cultural exchange, they also worked together on an environmental project. Due to the vast differences in

resources, students at GSS Tundunwada lacked desks needed to complete their daily classroom routines or the trees and plant life that would beautify their school. With the help of the Mary Bragg Elementary, they were able to fundraise enough money to purchase 50 desks, 50 chairs, 20 almond trees, and 500 flowering plants for their new companions across the world. This partnership is only expected to grow and we cannot wait to facilitate meaningful connections with students across the world while working towards a greener future.



"This is quite heartwarming. This act of love exhibited by these children is very humbling."

EUCHARIA
Instructor
GSS Tundunwada
Abuja, Nigeria

↑
MARY BRAGG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CERRITOS, CA Organized a fundraiser for GSS Tundunwada. Their goal was to help GSS Tundunwada purchase chairs and desks for their classrooms.

\$6,440

PARTNERSHIP FUNDRAISER



50

DESKS

50

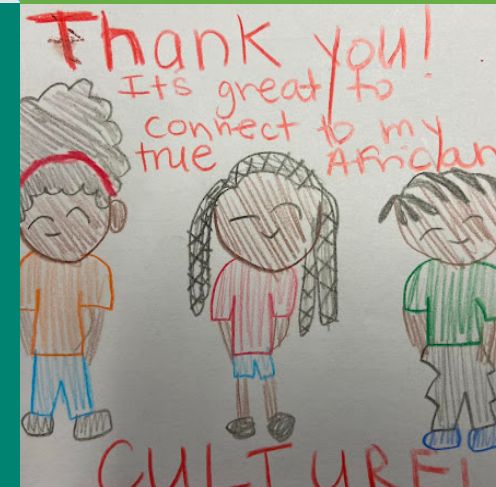
CHAIRS

20

ALMOND TREES

500

FLOWERS



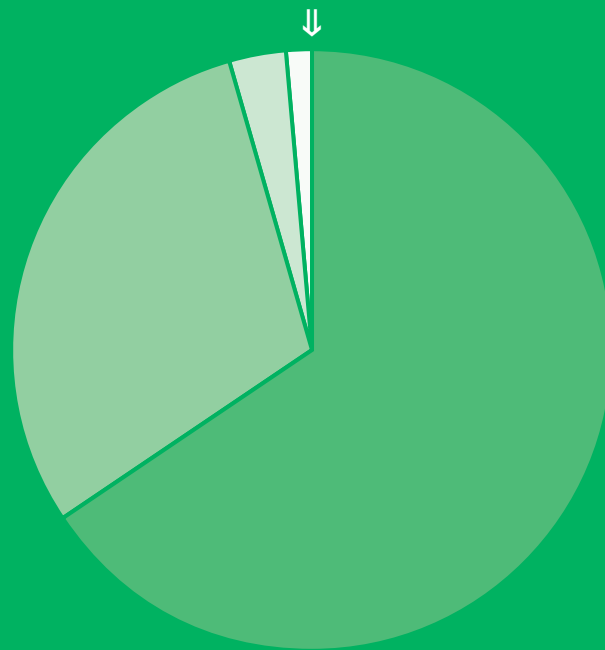
"I cannot express in words how much they make me happy! My kids are proud to help and can't wait until next year!"

KERRY FLORES
Teacher/Facilitator
Mary Bragg Elementary School
Cerritos, CA



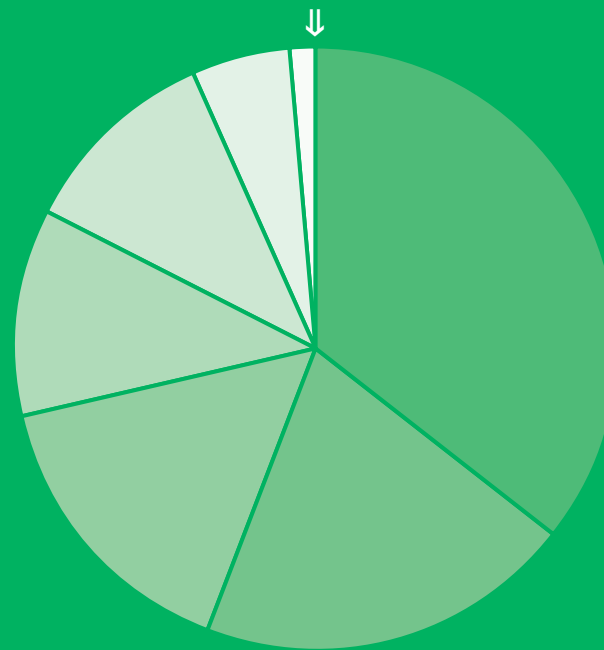
BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT ECO-LEADER GENDER*



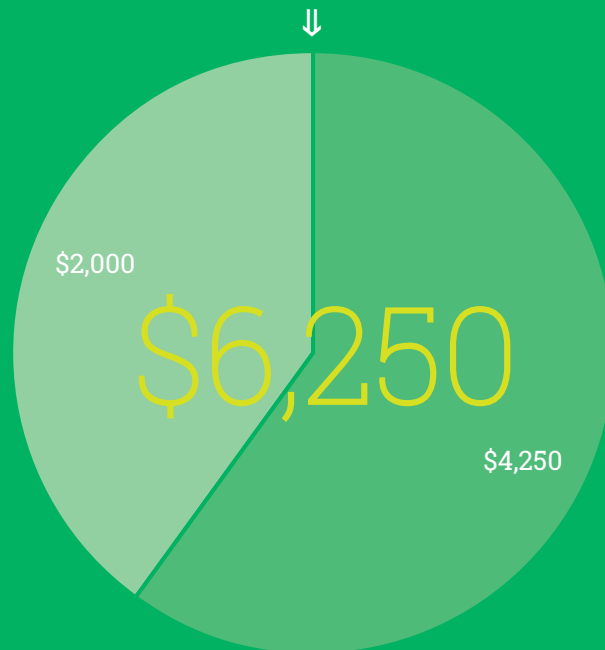
FEMALE: 299
 MALE: 136
 NOT DISCLOSED: 14
 NONBINARY: 6

STUDENT ECO-LEADER RACE / ETHNICITY*



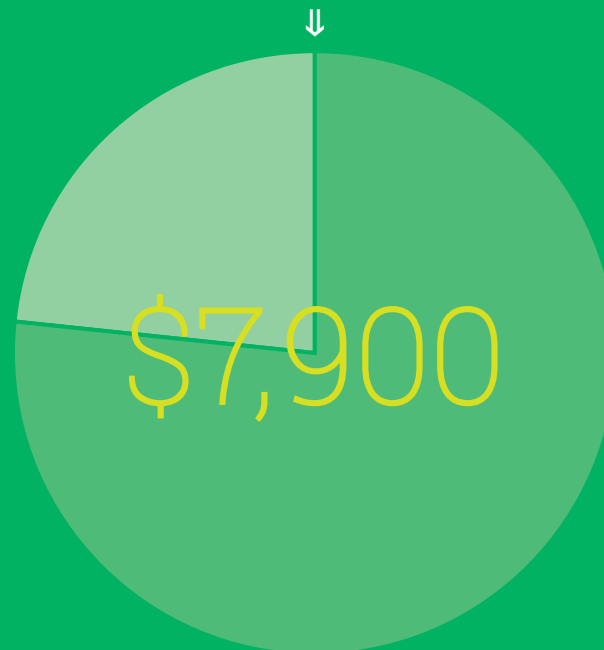
ASIAN OR ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 184
 WHITE: 104
 AFRICAN/BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN: 80
 TWO OR MORE RACES: 58
 HISPANIC/LATINO (NON-WHITE): 55
 PREFER TO NOT DISCLOSE: 27
 OTHER: 7

ECO-GRANTS AWARDED



UNITED STATES: 6
 INTERNATIONAL: 4

TEACHER STIPENDS



UNITED STATES: 33
 INTERNATIONAL: 10

37,152

TOTAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN OUR PROGRAMS

43

TOTAL TEACHERS RECEIVING STIPENDS

20/30
RISE / LAUNCH

TOTAL TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN OUR PROGRAMS

TOTAL IMPACT

5758

TREES PLANTED

230

TONS OF CO2 DIVERTED

5,289

POUNDS OF TRASH PICKED UP

102,296

POUNDS OF WASTE DIVERTED

31

ACRES OF LAND PRESERVED

3,370

GALLONS OF WATER SAVED

115,817

PRESS & MEDIA REACH

106,593

COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED

37,152

STUDENTS REACHED

*These demographics reflect student data that was self-reported by users.



LACARGUY INTERNATIONAL CHANGEMAKER GRAND WINNER \$1,000

Malezi Community Centre Primary School | Nairobi, Kenya

This year, with the help of LAcarGuy, we were fortunate enough to have 2 grand prize winners for the RISE Climate Solutions Campaign! With Grades of Green having its roots in Southern California, we have been able to expand our programs far beyond the United States into countries around the world. Our teams have had an extraordinary impact on addressing the climate crisis, and we want to recognize our international teams that went above and beyond. Our winner of the LAcarGuy International Changemaker Award was the Malezi Community Centre Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya who addressed the large-scale issue of waste.

The ultimate goal of the Malezi team was to construct a centralized waste holding facility away from the community. The students did door to door campaigns across the community to educate families about the benefits of reducing waste in addition to providing more information about their cleanup efforts. This ambitious team collected 2 tonnes of trash and are planning to purchase trucks for waste transport that are independent of the government. This team had an incredible impact for this year's campaign and we can't wait to see them grow as eco-leaders in their community!



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT GRAND PRIZE \$1,000

Bragg Elementary School Green Team | Cerritos, CA

The Mary Bragg Green Team stepped up to take on each of our five environmental topics for their RISE Campaign! This student team sold trees via Tree Plenish, distributed rain barrels, established a Trash Free Lunch Sorting Station, held beach clean ups, and began a food recovery program by donating edible food through

the nonprofit, Food Finders. On top of all this, they donated \$500 to Matungu, an international team in our RISE Campaign, to help them plant more trees. Additionally, this team participated in activities with This Little Light Africa to plant gardens and purchase new desks for a school in Nigeria. What an environmental impact!



SUSTAINABLE IMPACT AWARD \$500

MATUNGU COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY | NAIROBI, KENYA

This year, Matungu continued with their 2020-2021 project and planted 5,005 trees. They quickly met their goal while utilizing help from their community. In addition to tree planting, Matungu also created micro gardens to plant food items such as spinach, kale, coriander, and more. Furthermore, they conducted many outreach and educational events within their community. This team also worked with Mary Bragg Elementary in California to extend the reach of their project and they continue to inspire others with their dedication to the environment.



COMMUNITY TRAILBLAZER AWARD \$500

TEAM UNIVERSITY OF BUEA | BUEA, CAMEROON

This team's goal was to plant 500 trees in their community to reduce the amount of CO2 in their home through partnerships with multiple organizations. Eco-leader, Joel, not only reached out to local organizations, he also met with multiple

government officials and news outlets to spread the word. In the end, he fundraised for 400 trees and planted them throughout his community. Joel and his team made countless flyers, social media posts, and even made certificates for all of the students who participated. He also reached out with local radio and news stations to cover the tree planting event which helped broadcast and expand the reach of his team's goals.



COMMUNITY ECO-ACTIVISTS AWARD \$500

COOKING UP LESS FOOD WASTE FROM NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL | BAYSIDE, NY

This team of middle schoolers from New York were a determined group who pushed hard to overcome many hurdles. Initially, this team set out to implement a food donation station at their school, but met a challenge when they found that this was prohibited by the Department of Education. The team took this as an opportunity to shift their project towards changing this law. They contacted multiple government officials to gain support in changing the law in addition to circulating a petition for support. The team is still advocating for eco-friendly legislation and aims to complete this ambitious task by the end of the 2022-2023 school year.



CAMPUS WASTE WARRIORS AWARD \$500

POLY GREEN TEAM | LONG BEACH, CA

The Green Team at Long Beach Polytechnic High School addressed waste and sorting by installing 65 recycling bins across their campus. They also created and implemented food waste sorting stations around campus while creating videos and presentations to educate their peers on how to properly sort waste. This dedicated team of students worked hard and showed real leadership to make impactful changes for their school of over 4000 students.



GREEN CAMPUS LEADERS AWARD \$250

WHITNEY HIGH SCHOOL | CERRITOS, CA

This team initially set out to change their district's cafeteria utensils from single-use plastic to compostable materials. This ambitious goal led to many roadblocks, so they shifted their efforts from targeting the entire district to focus on their specific campus. The students made multiple petitions, flyers, and social media posts to gain support. They held many

GRANTS

fundraisers to purchase their own compostable utensils that the school could use in addition to utensil dispensers. Moving forward, they are looking to have a district meeting to campaign for the district wide shift as they had originally planned. Alternatively, they are also campaigning to switch from a plastic packaged utensil, napkin, and straw to single item dispensers which would greatly reduce waste.



ECO-PRENEUR AWARD \$250

JUSTIN SATHER FROM FOR THE LOVE OF FROGS | CARLSBAD, CA

Justin's main focus has been to protect acres of rainforest in Ecuador, all in an effort to preserve his favorite animal, the frog. He has presented dozens of times to promote his own work and get students from around the world involved in his project. Justin also developed a new

Grades of Green toolkit aimed at inspiring other kids his age to protect the planet. He has also worked with multiple businesses to advocate for sustainable products including ECOS and Native Shoes. Justin also won the Crate & Barrel Kids Changemakers prize and is currently aiming to advocate towards bigger businesses.



ECO INNOVATOR AWARD \$250

FOR THE GREENER GOOD FROM MIRA COSTA HIGH SCHOOL | MANHATTAN BEACH, CA

The students at Mira Costa High School decided to take on the topic of waste by educating their community and two waste reduction events. Their first event was a clothing swap to raise awareness about the harms of fast fashion and textile waste on the environment. This student-led team educated

their school community about reducing textile waste while promoting sustainable fashion by repurposing unwanted clothing instead of sending it to the landfill. They also hosted a harbor clean-up event where club members and friends took to the water on kayaks and paddle boards to clean up litter in the harbor.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD \$250

ECO CREW FROM EDUSN INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL SCHOOL | MYANMAR

Eco Crew was our first team from Myanmar. They completed a social media campaign and presentation on how to reduce litter in their community. This included many posts, videos, and graphics to promote caring for the planet. They held multiple webinars about their initiatives and worked closely with other teams in the area.

OUR TEAM

PROGRAM STAFF

Kim Siehl
Executive Director

Anjuli Koentopp
LAUNCH Program Manager

Robyn Murphy
RISE Program Manager

Lauren Muller
SOAR Program Manager

Glenn Arnade
Climate Corp Fellow

Sam Blake
Programs Associate

Sarah Stoker
Programs Associate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chrissie Clay
Chair

Camela Ott
Vice Chair

Rachel Tornek
Secretary

Lisa Coppedge
Co-Founder

Shaya Kirkpatrick
Co-Founder

Steven Davis

Dawnyell Goolsby

Priscilla Munoz

Kapil Singh

Julie David

Pat Amato

Kay Sheth

Chris Carreon



HONORARY AWARDS

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

RUTHIE HEIS
LONG BEACH POLY HIGH SCHOOL
LONG BEACH, CA

FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR

KERRY FLORES
MARY BRAGG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CERRITOS, CA

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

DESHNA JAIN
TO ENVIRONMENT, WITH LOVE
KOLKATA, INDIA

Let's help them make
a world of difference.



DONATE TODAY

info@gradesofgreen.org
310-607-0175
gradesofgreen.org

