



ECO2school Program Impact 2019-2020

“I have been inspired to not damage the earth more than necessary. I ride my bike, walk or carpool school daily to change what is in my control. I have learned the effects of climate change disproportionately affect communities of color. With ECO2school I pursue solutions that shape policy addressing the largest existential issue our society is facing, and mitigate future damage to the earth.”

**- Cristina Avelar, Senior Maria Carrillo High School
World Changer Scholarship winner**

About ECO2school:

ECO2school will be moving to a new umbrella organization, Daily Acts. Staying true to our roots here in Sonoma County, ECO2school will continue offering mentorship for high school students in service-learning projects and activities that both build awareness and lead to action on climate change.

Daily Act’s motto of “every action makes a ripple” underlines ECO2school’s mission of connecting our personal actions to the overall health for ourselves, our communities, and our planet. As we enter this pivotal decade for the protection of our climate, this union will allow additional avenues for personal, community, and policy-level actions. From active transportation and permaculture projects to actions that support our mental health and wellness, ECO2school is excited to help our high school youth leaders build the future they want to be a part of.



Youth board members at the September 20, 2019 Climate Strike

No longer can we say that climate change is a problem of the future. Mass evacuations and three weeks of school closures due to fires in the fall and COVID-19 pandemic school closures and shelter in place orders for the final ten weeks of the school year had a significant impact on programs. Even with these challenges ECO2school was able to provide education and mentorship at 17 Sonoma County high schools and the Santa Rosa Junior College. Regional program reached another ten schools in six Bay Area counties. ECO2school staff implemented youth leadership trainings with **125** Sonoma County students. These students designed and implemented education and encouragement activities that reached **6,646** students and **2,186** community members.

Changes commute behavior during shelter in place.

Savings during shelter in place*:

- **393,210 fewer vehicle miles traveled**
- **176,760 fewer gallons of gas consumed**
- **\$627,353.30 saved in gasoline costs**
- **\$2,162,036.50 vehicle operations**
- **1740 tons of CO2 emissions averted**

* 60% of Sonoma County high schools reporting

Not all impacts of COVID-19 were negative. School closures had a significant positive impact on student commutes due to the elimination of all car trips to and from school – giving us an image of what is possible. The average savings for a Sonoma County high school student during the 10-week shelter in place is a 271 reduction in vehicle miles traveled resulting in 13 fewer gallons of gasoline consumed for a savings of \$44.56. There is also a \$153.53 savings on vehicle maintenance and operations and 247 pounds of CO2 emissions averted. For these calculations we used information collected from

fall transportation surveys at 12 schools. In conjunction with students' carbon transportation footprint we used GIS information on average distances from school and AAA statistics on gas prices, miles per gallon, and vehicle operation costs per mile.

ECO2school Program Highlights

- Mentored 15 Sonoma County teens to organize the September Climate Strike speakers and presentations. Over 2,000 people attended.
- Climate Action Night brought together 44 students in partnership with Santa Rosa Junior College, and Sonoma County high schools to present 12 climate policy presentations and share in an online platform. Presentations received over 2,000 views and 100 people reported taking direct action contacting civic leaders about climate change policies.
- Sponsored a "Tell Your Climate Story" Contest. 24 students participated in our storytelling training. 42 students from across the Bay Area shared stories which were viewed by over 2,100 people on the website. According to self-reported numbers by participants they reached 15,673 people with their stories.
- Taught mechanics and street riding skills at three schools with community repair and ride sessions
- 125 student volunteers implemented 13 encouragement events reaching 5,316 peers
- ECO2school staff did 80 presentations to 1,205 students around climate literacy, transportation and sustainability.
- During shelter in place education ECO2school implemented a weekly newsletter. It reached 235 students and 115 teachers for the last eleven weeks of the school year.

Regional Partners

Youth Champions in Alameda, presented "Walk and Roll TV" a student-led YouTube Channel show with the intention of teaching students, parents, school staff and community about alternate transportation options such as walking, biking, carpooling, and taking public transit through 2 video segments. "The Golden Sneaker Contest" video was released in February 2020. The "What to do During the Lockdown?" video was released on May 27, 2020 to keep students engaged mentally and

physically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both were shared to all participating elementary, middle and high schools as well as the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools newsletter and website, reaching students, parents, teachers and community members at more than 250 schools and their parents and the communities they come from. The videos can be seen at WRTV YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OB32dZ7lSqY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo28Bc0FDa8>

One co-benefit of the program is students from a wide variety of backgrounds are collaborating and learning from each other. Youth Champions is comprised of students from the following high schools: McClymonds, San Leandro, Castro Valley and Dublin.

Mission High School conducted a walk audit in collaboration with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. 29 students attended their transportation planning workshop and 7 students participated in the audit. Special focus was given to planning, justice, and equity through a transportation lens which helped create a bridge between bicycling advocacy and current events. SFBC created a tool kit for Planning Walk and Roll to School Week for high schools.

Richmond and JFK High Schools: Earth Team encountered some logistical challenges based on school policy toward visiting students. As a result, JFK students were only able to participate in weekend community events and not internships. 12 students from Richmond High built the Carbon Race to demonstrate to peers the different amounts of carbon emitted into the atmosphere by different modes of transportation. Their demonstrations were interrupted by COVID-19 but the students won first place for “The Richmond Oilers” story submission in the Tell Your Climate Story Contest where they highlighted their interactive activity.



Richmond High Earth Team

Castro Valley High School: Earth Team worked with a team of 14 interns on projects that connected to dots between air quality and transportation. Students conducted research then created the “Enviromobile” to share their results and promote carpooling as a solution to peers. Both Earth Teams from Castro Valley and Richmond shared the results of their project in an online symposium with their peers and community members.

Redwood High: In partnership with YBike, 12 students built bikes and now use them as regular transportation to get to and from school. In December students put on a bike safety day. They were able to pass out bike lights and reflectors and educate peers on road safety during daylight savings time. Here is what one student had to say about the program. “Y bike shed has gave me an opportunity I never thought I would get. It taught me to be passionate about something. I have a hard time in school. Numbers are hard for me. But getting a chance to work with my hands is great. I feel like I can accomplish something when I come to bike class. It just makes sense when I’m working on mechanics. Something just clicks.”

San Marin High School: Successes were in developing curriculum, building relationships, and creating replicable content for a Safe Routes wellness lesson. A student leader was supported by the Marin Bicycle Coalition to serve on the Marin Task Force which included helping with walk audits and working with public works to design infrastructure at her school. This partnership improved Safe Routes working-relationships with public works in Novato and brought additional Novato schools into the program. The Share the Road curriculum developed in year one will be moving to an online platform in response to COVID-19.

Award Winners

World Changers:

World Changers aims to support youth in making climate central to their educational, career, and lifestyle choices. Heather Murry from the Santa Rosa Junior College worked with TCC's Business for Clean Energy program on a video series. She has now been hired as a part-time employee at the Center. Two graduating seniors: Annabelle Lampson from Orchard View High School and Cristina Avelar from Maria Carrillo were awarded the World Changers Scholarship.

"Humans need to learn from systems of nature that create synergy in the changing world all around us. Along with listening to science and creating policy, belonging to nature will serve our resilience to climate change."
– Annabelle Lampson, World Changer Scholarship winner

Annabelle is a long-time warrior for climate justice. Her accomplishments include being a TCC Youth Board Member, a fellowship with Youth Vs Apocalypse and organizing and speaking at events and conferences including the September 20, 2019 Climate Strike that reached 2,000 people.

Cristina is a cyclist and activist who has taken a leadership role at her school putting on events to raise climate awareness, participating in a community walk audit to identify infrastructure improvements and sharing the findings with the City of Santa Rosa planning department, Bike Ped Advisory board, school administration and site advisory committee.

Tell Your Climate Story

Students from across the Bay Area entered the contest. First prize received \$500, second prize \$300 and third prize \$200. There were eight honorable mentions who received \$100 visa gift cards or Camelbak backpacks.

Richmond Highschool's Earth Team won first prize for their video *The Richmond Oilers*, drawing a connection between climate change, asthma, the strong presence of the oil industry in their community, and social justice.

Second place went to Diego Zamora, a sophomore at Piner High School, for his video, *Our Burning Future*, telling his personal journey from climate sceptic to activist.

Madison Casey, a sophomore at Windsor High School, took third with her story, *Every Effort Counts*, on how climate disasters in her home community have influenced her to take action.

You can see winners and all the stories on our website: www.eco2school.org/tell-your-story

Best Practice Award

Climate Action Night won the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference Best Practice Award in Partnerships, Communications, and Planning in partnership with the Santa Rosa Junior College.



No Idling pledge drive at Maria Carrillo High School.