Reimagining Education.
Inspiring Communities.
Total Program Participants: 10,573
Residential Program Participants: 3,929
Field Trip and Summer Program Participants: 2,362
Programs at Schools & Teacher Workshop Participants: 4,272
Total Schools Worked with: 71 (from NH, ME, MA, TX and VT)
Total Students Scholarship #': 6,042 (57% of program participants)
Total Scholarship Amount: $235,099

“It is so fascinating to watch students connect with the natural world while learning so much about themselves and what they are capable of.”
- Kelly Scott, 6th grade science teacher, MA

“Brian enjoyed every part of the trip from the bunk bed to the food - you made one happy 5th grader. I am so pleased that places like this are still operating to help encourage & support elementary school level excitement around science education!”
- Kerri, Parent of 5th grade Student from MA
As President of the Board of Directors, I am excited to share with you my passion for The Ecology School. Over the past 16 years, our innovative teaching model has proven highly successful in reaching students of all ages and abilities. As a former classroom teacher, I have seen the impact that experiential teaching methods have, especially outdoors! Children who struggle in the classroom, who are viewed as "problem students", become active and inquisitive participants at The Ecology School. Students who usually shine are challenged to think deeper about the world. And all students learn to collaborate with one another as they learn about their interdependence with the natural world. These relationships are cultivated and nurtured while walking in the woods, while working as a team in the salt marsh, while sharing dorm rooms and dinner tables.

Students come here knowing little about the natural communities they live in. Maybe they know their human neighbors but have yet to be introduced to white pines, moon snails, and salt hay. At The Ecology School, they learn how to identify these neighbors and about the myriad connections between them. Students discover their place within this landscape, and with it, a powerful sense of belonging. I've witnessed this from a variety of perspectives—as an Ecology School educator, as a classroom teacher, and as Board President. Students’ respect for each other, and for different points of views, grows in tandem with their respect for nature; they build their own human communities while learning about the natural communities they live in.

I am so grateful that students experience the magic that is The Ecology School. I am particularly proud that The Ecology School works hard to provide scholarships to school districts that serve students in economically disadvantaged situations. Schools without the funds for our programs are still able to come to The Ecology School due to our commitment to those schools. We strongly believe all students deserve the hands-on, minds-on education The Ecology School provides, regardless of their district’s ability to pay. The sense of wonder and the feeling of community should be available to each of us.

As president of the Board of Directors, I am impressed by the solid foundation that The Ecology School has built over the past 16 years. Our partner schools view us as a vital part of their curriculum and we are a key source of educational innovation in our community. I look forward to continuing to be a part of The Ecology School during this exciting period of growth. Please join us in our goal of sustaining wonder and delight in the natural world for all children.

Kelly Towle Corbin, Past President
THE PROMISE

It’s always a bit of a shock to realize that what you think motivates you to act may not be what has inspired you all along. Since founding The Ecology School in 1999, I’ve led an organization focused on teaching the science of ecology and the practice of sustainability... or so I thought. Then one simple question from an Ecology School board member allowed me to reconsider what we’re really trying to accomplish with our innovative programs and curriculum.

This mission rethinking happened just recently at an Ecology School Board Committee meeting. To brainstorm how to better share our mission with the general public, John Rooks (our board director who heads up the marketing committee) suddenly asked us all, “What is The Ecology School’s promise? I don’t mean what we do—ecology and sustainability education—but what do we want the lasting impact to be on our program participants?”

There was a brief moment where all of us at the table looked confused, then thoughtful and then the conversation really took off and resulted in this: The Ecology School’s promise is to inspire children and adults to create healthy schools, communities and ecosystems. And, as we’ve recognized all along, one of the most effective ways to build sustainability is to use the science of ecology as the foundation for experiential learning out in nature and with hands-on projects in organic gardening and permaculture landscapes.

In the 21st century, kids desperately need models of what healthy communities look like. For over 16 years, The Ecology School has used rigorous ecosystem science education to model what’s possible for a sustainable future. After students and teachers learn from our educators how to collaborate with nature’s guiding principles and systems, they depart from our programs (spanning from day field trip adventures to 5 day residential programs) with the knowledge and tools to design, build and support healthy communities for the rest of their lives.

Having already shared our programs with more than 125,000 people, The Ecology School is now poised to work with our next 125,000 program participants. We have begun the search for our own land so that we can build a year-round residential campus for ecology and sustainability by the end of 2018. With our new site, we will scholarship even more disadvantaged school communities to join us in overnight programs. With our own site we can increase and deepen the student impact of our EcosySTEM!™ multi-year programming which combines field trip and residential programs with teacher workshops and schoolyard ecology programs. And with this new Ecology School campus we can better demonstrate how a permaculture landscape of diverse plants can be the basis of healthy food systems while creating abundant wildlife habitat.

To every person who has supported The Ecology School over the years (including our amazing staff and board of directors!) and to our many new supporters, I invite you all to join The Ecology School as we grow, evolve and fully commit to our promise to help even more schools reimagine education and to be a leader in inspiring better living through systems-based models that create healthy, resilient communities.

Drew Dumsch, Executive Director
## FINANCIALS

### EEI 2014 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>%’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Income</td>
<td>$822,939</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Grants</td>
<td>$145,228</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Interest &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>$20,802</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$988,969</strong></td>
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</table>

### EEI 2014 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>%’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$817,861</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support. Services- Management/General</td>
<td>$63,611</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events/Fundraising/Grants</td>
<td>$27,262</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$908,734</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Income**

$80,235

**Net Assets as of 12/31/14:** $311,878

financial statements by Hobson & Company, CPA
THE ENGINE THAT KEEPS IT ALL RUNNING

Meet Team Admin
Meg Edstrom Jones
John Ibsen
Gale Kurtz
Caley Mackenzie
Drew Dumsch
Alex Grindle

“The Ecology School is a nimble organization that sees what needs to happen and does it. We solicit ideas and act upon feedback.”
- Alex Grindle, Director of Programs

“We stay relevant and authentic because we are on the front lines. We as educators learn what the students are capable of.”
- Meg Edstrom Jones, Director of Education and Curriculum Design

“The best reason that I work here? I was one of those kids...bouncing off the walls, always curious and wanting to be outside. I get those kids. Now I get to work with them and help them succeed in learning.”
- John Ibsen, Residential Program Manager
DONORS

INDIVIDUALS

$5,000 +
Anonymous

$1000-$4999
Nick and Mary Dumsch
Caryl Everett
Lisa Farago & Drew Dumsch
Paul and Mary Love Gabrielson
Merilee Grindle
Steven H. Grindle
David Holman
Bridget Jones & Dinesh Goburdhun
Deborah and Clayton Jones
Bobbi Keppel
Martha L. Taylor
Carol G. Thompson

$500-$999
Amherst Middle School 8th Grade Team
Luiza Brown and Richard O’Brien
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Graver
Mike Hansen
Mary and Fred Martin
Sue and Robert Murphy
Alfred and Dorothy Suzi Osher
Roger White
John and Barbara Zotz

$250-$499
Robert Adkins & Deborah Thaxter
Lynne Champion
Kate Gillis
John Ibsen
Valerie Jones
Linda Sullivan
Jack Tracy
Kristin Hunter Thomas and Malin Pinsky
Richard and Judy Zambroski

$100-$249
Steve & Rebecca Buccieri
Ann E. Boynton
Janet Bringola and Matt Kelley
Virginia Crocker
Peter Desnoyer
Todd Dowling
Sasha Eisele
Tony and Suzanne Federer
Donald Freedman
Sara Gabrielson
Alexandra Grindle
Stefanie Grindle

Jennifer Guimaraes
Corey Hascall
Albert Howlett
Brad & Cathy Irwin
W.D. and Mary A. Johnson
Robert and Marjory Keeler
Christopher Kirkhoff
Susan and Bill Nixon
John W. Paynter
Maggie Samen
Elena Schmidt
Peter & Elizabeth Signell
Milton and Joan V. Victor
Guy “Pete” Wilder
Susan Louisa Zayac

$50-$99
Joanne Alex
David Anderson
Tom and Laura Broussard
Justin Chenette
Hugo Collantes
Mr. Tom Davis
Ben Driscoll
Kenneth R. and Mary V. Feathers
Susan Gentile
Jerry Gosselin
Mark & Jane Gottwald
Jane and John Hartnett
John & Linda Ibsen
Christelle and Len Landelius
John and Dianne Lemoine
Irmgard E. Neils
Christina Nicolson
Joan & Charles Partridge
Beth Phelps
Robena Reid
Jo and Grant Reynolds
Todd and Sarah Smith
Gayle A. & Michael J. Tweed
Marion C. and William F. Vierow
Diane Woods
Dale Yerger
Krysta Zambroski
Ali Zick

$25-$49
Claudia Berman
Althea Brown
Jaime Duval & Rob Beranek
Francesca Elms & Jack Drucker
Lois L. Fenton
Judith A. & Jeffrey R. Fletcher
Brigid Smith Franey
Sarah Gamble
Satya Glover
At the Lebanon Schools we have been very fortunate to have a long standing partnership with the Ecology School that has allowed us to maintain focus on environmental literacy for the last 8 years, despite changes in funding, leadership, curriculum and and the onslaught of NCLB, NECAPS and SBACS and other devious acronyms. Our partnership has gifted our schools in multiple ways and on many levels by providing our students ecology-based experiences that have been tailored to compliment and support our school’s science curriculum. They are engaging, entertaining, hands on, high energy, practical get your hands dirty endeavors that would make John Dewey himself proud.

- Tom Ladue, Principal Lebanon Elementary School, EcosySTEM™! partner
In 1998, Drew Dumsch, Brad Bradway, and Steve Signell came together with a shared vision of creating an ecology school. This vision led to the creation of a non-profit organization with an innovative teaching model that emphasizes the importance of experiential learning, sustainability, wonder and joy. Like our education model, the story of The Ecology School started with a vision and matured through connections, collaborations, curiosity and a collective belief in its mission – to become a vital partner in the fabric of our schools and communities through innovative methods of teaching ecology and community sustainability that inspires, engages, connects and challenges students about the natural world in which they live.

All of us at The Ecology School bring the same innovative collective thinking that motivates, inspires and compels us to grow to you, our donors and collaborators, who have and continue to travel this journey with us. Without your collective wisdom and support, we would not have accomplished all that we have to date.

On behalf of our Executive Director, Team Admin, our Board of Directors, and our professional staff of educators, The Ecology School thanks you for your continued commitment and trust in our journey and vision.
“There are people, places, and moments in time that define your life. Living and working at The Ecology School is one of these turning points for me. In Maine I found my voice. I learned to speak up, speak out and be confident in my ideas. I learned that it’s okay to be uncomfortable, to take risks - that there is no right way. I discovered that I wanted to devote my career to working with people in a way that enriched their lives and mine. I developed life-long friendships. That time of my life was demanding of time & energy. I have never laughed so hard or been so amused by anything until I had my own kids.

The Ecology School is unique in ways words just can’t describe. Using improv to teach terrified me at first, then became something worth waking up for. If it were not for the experiences I had there and the point of view I gained, I would not have the courage or the inspiration to make the professional choices I am making today. My love for The Ecology School runs deep!

- Christine Simonson, Ecology School Educator Fall 2002-Fall 2004
The Ecology School uses rigorous ecosystem science education to model what’s possible when we cooperate with nature’s guiding principles.

Through innovative, experiential programming spanning from day adventures to residential programs, we expose students to new ideas.

Students leave with the knowledge and tools to design, build and support healthy communities.

Reimagining Education. Inspiring Communities.

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Saco, ME 04072
www.TheEcologySchool.org
(207) 283-9951