Green Works in Kansas City develops Kansas City’s future leaders through hands-on environmental science, outdoor experiences, service projects, career exploration, workplace training, and paid summer work experiences.

**Key Principles**

- We serve students living in the Kansas City, Missouri Public School District.
- We incorporate project-based learning in a social setting with other students and caring adults.
- We follow national best practices including quality staff, small class size, and long-term involvement.
- We offer holistic experiences including field trips and service projects to appeal to all types of learners.
- We involve volunteer professionals to help students build self-confidence and strengthen their social networks.
- We incorporate a respect for the environment into every aspect of our programming and administration.

This spring we received a grant from Spire to fund a large portion of the costs for an ECO Career Camp for 15 middle school students. The curriculum focused on water and climate change. Students tested water quality, experimented with solar, took field trips to learn about environmental careers, and had a kayaking adventure, which for many students was their first experience in a kayak.

Thanks to our partners, the Mo. Dept. of Conservation, Metropolitan Energy Center, the KS Fish & Wildlife Service, KCMO Water Services, Evergy, KC Solar Concepts, Lakeside Nature Center, Bridging the Gap, The Resilient Activist, and the City of KC, MO Sustainability Dept.

KCPT was on hand for a few days, and is featuring Green Works in a video on KC’s response to climate change.
ECOS Outdoor Nature
The ECOS program for 4th - 8th graders includes hikes, bird watching, identification of native trees and plants, nature art projects, and more. ECOS is held during the fall and spring, and unless it is raining, the program is held outside, so Covid was less of a disruption for ECOS. We held programs at the Discovery Center at 47th and Troost, and at Lakeside Nature Center in Swope Park. We weren’t able to host a third program at Trailwoods Elementary, because the school remained closed due to Covid.

During the summer, we worked with our partners to bring ECOS lessons to school classrooms and community settings. We collaborated with Citizen’s of the World School for 40 students to spend afternoons at a local farm. We also worked with students at Operation Breakthrough, which included a walking field trip down the street to visit Longfellow Farm.

Dr. Connie Campbell recently completed an evaluation of the ECOS program confirming that the design and implementation of ECOS meets standards and national best practices, and is designed to provide mental, physical and academic benefits for an underserved population. The evaluation is available on our website or through this link.

Green Works Lab
We hosted two sessions of the Green Works Lab sustainable business program this year, and served 24 urban high school students. The program includes creating business plans, working on creativity with a curriculum by VentureLab, designing and creating a sustainable product, learning basic marketing and merchandising, and practicing customer service in our store. Students also have the opportunity to design signage and educational window displays.

The Perennial Bee Retail Store
Our store is currently open First Friday weekends. Our students and staff sell products that have a sustainability connection, including many products that help decrease single-use plastic. Students help pick out the products, and each class produces products to sell in the store. Our customers enjoy interacting with students in the store and learning about sustainable choices.

We had new large fabric banners installed in front of our building to mark the classroom and the store. We painted the store walls, and added more carpeting and shelving. We’re looking forward to expanding our open hours in the near future.

Excelerate and Summer Work Experiences
These programs were on hold due to Covid.
Program Outcomes

Working towards our mission to empower Kansas City’s future leaders to care for our environment, contribute to our economy and create healthy communities, we measure our success using the following program outcomes:

1. Increased science literacy
2. Changed behaviors towards the environment
3. Improved life skills including financial literacy
4. Hours of work experienced through paid summer internships
5. Increased social capital connections

Another Successful Year in Spite of COVID-19

- We finalized a Key Opinion Leader Survey and started implementing some marketing changes based on feedback we received from funders, parents, and students.
- Green Works participated in Remake Learning Days in May, hosting a family nature hike at Lakeside Nature Center. Volunteers and Laurie Brown, a Green Works board member, led participants in identifying birds, plants and mushrooms.
- We added Liam Porter to our board. Liam owns a State Farm agency and has added valuable knowledge to our board regarding insurance.
- With the addition of funding from the Children’s Services Fund of Jackson County, and earned income from our store, we made significant progress towards our goal of diversifying our funding sources. (See Revenue Chart on the right.)

$I'm so glad to have taken part in such an amazing program full of smart, talented and kind people.$" Green Works Lab student

$20k for 40 Kids Campaign

Over the summer we launched a successful fundraising campaign, and raised $20k to expand our ECOS outdoor nature program to serve 40 more students. The highlight of the campaign was four unique social events that included a bluegrass concert on the prairie, a backyard happy hour, an historic home tour, and a presentation by a curator from the Nelson-Atkins museum.
History and Contact Info

Green Works in Kansas City was founded by Kate Corwin, an IT professional, former business owner, and community leader. Green Works was incorporated in the state of Missouri in February of 2007, and recognized as a nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code in September 2007.

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How You Can Help

There are many ways to help Green Works including the following:*

• Give a monetary contribution and consider giving monthly.
• Donate a car, truck, boat, motorcycle, or RV.
• Join others who have designated Green Works for a planned gift through a charitable bequest or beneficiary designation.
• Volunteer as a guest instructor, student mentor, or planting assistant. Email info@greenworkskc.org for a volunteer application.
• Write a review of Green Works on GreatNonprofits - greatnonprofit.org.
• Connect to us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.
• Sign up for our newsletter and then share with your friends. (Simple form at the bottom of the website homepage.)
• Get your company involved. (See website for ideas.)

* Check our website support page (greenworkskc.org/support) for details.

Looking Ahead to Next Year

We’ll be launching our ECOS program at Trailwoods Elementary School in the fall and planning for a fourth location. We’ll also be expanding our highly-successful ECO Career Camp and doubling the number of students served. We have plans to add Saturday Sustainable Skill sessions to the Green Works Lab, giving our students even more opportunities to create tangible items working with repurposed fabric and wood, as well as plants and food preparation. We’ll resume the Excelerate program, with classes for our students and a second class for young adults involved in programs run by our partner Synergy Services. Finally, we have plans to add two new staff positions to help with marketing, merchandising, recruitment, and alumni programming.

KCPT filmed our ECO Career Camp. Click on the photo to watch the video.