

## **ECOLIFE CONSERVATION IS PARTNERING WITH COASTAL ROOTS FARM TO GROW SUSTAINABLE PRODUCE**

As of April 6th, 2021, **ECOLIFE Conservation** is partnering with **Coastal Roots Farm** to grow fresh produce and educate the public on the many ways to establish more sustainable food systems.

Coastal Roots Farm is a nonprofit Jewish community farm and education center located in Encinitas, California. They envision a world in which every community comes together to grow and share healthy food by caring for the land and helping their neighbors. Overall, they achieve this by integrating sustainable agriculture, food justice, and ancient Jewish wisdom.

ECOLIFE Conservation's Sustainable Agriculture Program designs and builds aquaponic systems to grow fresh produce and fish in a recirculating system, utilizing 90% less water and land than conventional agriculture. ECOLIFE Conservation has constructed a state-of-the-art aquaponic system at Coastal Roots Farm's STEM Science Lab, located in Encinitas.

The system will be utilized during the School and Group Visits serving Pre-K through 12th grade students as a part of the Farm's educational programming. Interacting with the system will showcase technological advancements in agriculture and a way of growing food sustainably that differs from current high water usage agricultural methods.

With the integration of fish, Farm staff will be able to further talk about plant and animal adaptations and students will be able to compare habitat requirements between the fish and chickens currently living on the Farm. *"We are also excited about integrating the system in our high school programs where we can provide students with real-life applications of chemistry and biology concepts,"* says Megan Freeman, Education Manager of School & Group Visits at Coastal Roots Farm.

*"Here in San Diego county, where the majority of our water is imported, investing in, and educating people on alternative forms of agriculture is critical to feeding our future generations,"* says ECOLIFE's Executive Director, Anne Middleton. *"Through the implementation of sustainable farming methods, such as aquaponics, we are able to increase food security while reducing resource consumption and eliminating harmful pollutants."*

*"Coastal Roots Farm is so pleased to be partnering with ECOLIFE Conservation. We are excited to add their aquaponic system to our Farm STEM Science Lab to demonstrate another way of growing food while incorporating the food grown into our educational programming,"* says Javier Guerrero, Coastal Roots Farm's President and CEO.

To learn more about aquaponics and tour ECOLIFE Conservation's Aquaponic Innovation Center, register [HERE](#).

Funding for this aquaponics system was provided by [SDG&E](#)'s environmental champions grant program.

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