



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**The Ecology Center Announces Merger with 1to1 Movement**

*-Two Southern California based nonprofits partner for greater environmental impact-*

**SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA, March 1, 2017** - The Ecology Center, an Orange-County based nonprofit committed to inspiring communities around simple solutions to thriving on planet earth, is excited to announce a merger with 1to1 Movement, a San Diego-based nonprofit on a mission to inspire and simplify sustainability in everyday life.

Now known as The Ecology Center, the two Southern California based organizations are building on a growing trend; nonprofits aligning to increase effectiveness, expand reach, grow capacity and coalesce talent for greater impact. With a shared philosophy that values inclusivity, positivity, experiential learning, and innovative partnerships, The Ecology Center is uniquely positioned to grow the environmental movement in the region.

The Ecology Center, comprised of farmers, teachers, chefs and designers, has pioneered a local approach to sustainability that offers true scalability. Cutting-edge environmental perspectives are highlighted through its four core initiatives: Water, Grow, Eat and Make. 1to1 Movement's legacy programs offer exciting and innovative learning experiences, namely STACKED: A Mobile Learning Farm. With The Ecology Center's deep and practical expertise with re-purposing and designing spaces, as well as food systems education, STACKED will realize its full potential in Summer 2017 as a mobile offsite version of The Ecology Center able to inspire experiential learning for all ages.

"We are extremely excited to expand our effort into San Diego. This is the first step in building a series of connected communities focused on creative solutions for thriving on this beautiful planet," said Evan Marks, founder and Executive Director of The Ecology Center.

"The 1to1 Movement family is proud and honored to become a part of The Ecology Center team. This strategic merger will allow for us to collectively increase the scale, reach, and impact of our initiatives in our home community of San Diego, throughout Orange County, and online," said Jonathan Zaidman, executive director of the 1to1 Movement and now Director of Regional Expansion at The Ecology Center.



As one organization, The Ecology Center will build upon and expand its efforts to empower people and their families, schools, and workplaces to leverage simple solutions that make big changes. Headquartered in a historic farmhouse in San Juan Capistrano since 2008, The Ecology Center’s learning landscape models the practical solutions it promotes, including harvesting and reusing water, growing an abundance of food, creating no waste, and generating power . The Ecology Center will retain 1to1 Movement’s office space in San Diego.

Visit <https://www.theecologycenter.org> for more information.

For interviews, high-resolution images, and/or additional information, please contact Jamie Werner at 760-809-3487 or [jamie@theecologycenter.org](mailto:jamie@theecologycenter.org).

### **About The Ecology Center**

The Ecology Center is a non-profit eco-education center focused on creative solutions for thriving on planet Earth. Located in a historic farmhouse, The Ecology Center serves as a model, integrating ecological design principles to educate, inspire, and empower communities. By providing the tools necessary to make simple, practical daily changes, The Ecology Center is helping to transform schools, homes, workplaces, and communities into vibrant spaces.

The Ecology Center has a core team of 12 staff, and hosts meaningful and impactful events on and off site. Events include skills-building workshops and classes, farm to table dinners, festivals, and youth-centered programs. The Ecology Center champions works to support local school and community garden programs, and engages local students as eco-ambassadors through targeted campaigns and initiatives. The Ecology Center utilizes a social enterprise model to fund its programs and initiatives, which is supplemented by philanthropic support and corporate partnerships.

### **About 1to1 Movement**

1to1 Movement exists to inspire and simplify sustainability in daily life. In under five years since its founding, the organization has reached over 30,000 students with hands on, experiential, project based learning classes on food, water, waste, energy and transportation.

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