



**GREATER PORTLAND
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION NETWORK**

A Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

Annual Report 2016

The Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN) is a multi-sector network of organizations, educators, students, non-profits, political and industry leaders, and community members collaborating to promote sustainability education in the greater Portland region, including Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. Our inclusive network invites all stakeholders and partners to learn about sustainability issues, find ways to engage, provide input on policies and projects, and develop innovative means to support our collective sustainability education missions.

Acknowledged as a Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on education for sustainable development (ESD) by United Nations University, GPSEN envisions a healthy, just, and thriving region where education for sustainability is prioritized and integrated across sectors; and where everyone has opportunities to shape a sustainable future.

As a non-profit organization, we recognize the many efforts and accomplishments of our Board of Directors, core committees (Governance; Programs & Events; Outreach & Communications; and Research & Curriculum), working group members, fellows, interns, and volunteers. We have all achieved so much this year, implementing our goals and objectives, addressing regional challenges, and aligning our efforts with local initiatives and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's accomplishments include:

- 1) Governance development:
 - Engagement of committees and working groups in developing annual goals and objectives
 - Completion of a SWOT analysis at our Board retreat
 - Grant-writing through our Development Committee
 - Establishment of our new partnership model, with partner fees collected via our website.
 - Publication of our RCE Governance Structure research
 - Selection and orientation of new Board Members

- 2) Innovative cross-sector partnerships and projects that support transformative education and research:
 - Think Tank gatherings
 - Establishment of Fellows Program
 - 4th year participating in NWEI's EcoChallenge
 - AASHE webinar on SDGs
 - Kim Smith attended the ESDG conference, in India, identifying how education can help achieve the SDGs
 - Indigenous Wisdom and Sustainability Consciousness Event
 - Earth Week events at regional colleges and universities: speakers, films, and an art exhibit on plankton

- Development of Hope and Resilience training modules, with ecopsychologists, funded by PSU and PCC
 - College Student Network research project, led by interns
 - Kim Smith serves on AASHE's Board of Directors
 - Heather Spalding sits on AASHE's Advisory Council
 - Collaboration with AASHE, US Partnership for ESD, EAUC, and ACTS to measure SDGs for Higher Education's Global Alliance
- 3) Media and Outreach:
- GPSEN website created and managed by a computer science student intern and GIS student
 - Management of MailChimp listserv
 - Bi-weekly newsletter, edited by a student intern
 - Resources and events shared on GPSEN's Facebook page
 - Outreach committee meetings on marketing materials and partnership development
 - Meetings held with potential partners
 - Interview on KPSU's Shades of Green Podcast
- 4) Grant funding received to support:
- Increased diversity in leadership in environmental education, from Metro
 - Development of Hope and Resilience training, from PCC
- 5) Professional development opportunities and summits for ESD students, educators, and providers:
- GoGreen Business Conference (co-sponsor and attend)
 - Multiple workshops and presentations on ESD and campus sustainability at the AASHE conference, in Minneapolis
 - Earth Care Summit (outreach and attend)
 - Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (co-sponsor, outreach, tabling, and presentations)
 - Global Sustainable Self Conference (book in progress, with Oxford University Press)
 - Sustainability Curriculum Consortium webinar on SDGs
 - Hope and Resilience workshops for college network at PSU and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
 - Regional Faculty Sustainability Training
- 6) Events and opportunities for networking, idea-sharing, and policy discussions:
- 3 stakeholder meetings
 - UN Day and the Launch of the SDGs, with partners, at the World Forestry Center
 - Attendance by partners at the AASHE conference
 - Human Rights Day- Education as a Human Right
 - End-of-year party and awards ceremony, at Northwest Earth Institute
 - Meetings with regional leaders
 - Attendance at partner fundraisers
 - Meetings with PCC's Sustainability Leadership Council
 - Poster presentations at PSU Sustainability Celebration, intern Irene Bailey honored
 - Screening of "Gambling on Extinction" movie for World Environment Day, with Hosteling International, the Oregon Zoo, and USFWS

To learn more and get involved, go to our website: gpsen.org

Educate ~ Empower ~ Engage