



GREATER PORTLAND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION NETWORK

A Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

August 2016 Newsletter

GPSEN connects diverse organizations across the greater Portland region in a collaborative network that multiplies our collective capacity to educate for a more sustainable future.

Educate ~ Empower ~ Engage

GPSEN News

Hello, August! And, hello GPSEN partners and friends!

With a month left of summer, perhaps you can relate to having both a sensation of relative ease and a speeding up of planning for the fall. For GPSEN, this includes welcoming our new Board Members: Nicole Baber, owner of NB Consulting, David Macek, Executive Director of NWEI, and Nick Pasquale, project manager and filmmaker. You can learn more about our new and returning Board Members and our leadership team on our [GPSEN website](#).

We encourage the growing diversity and talent in leadership in sustainability with our partners as well. Join us in celebrating local nonprofit, [Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors \(ECO\)](#), as they welcome five new members to their Board of Directors. Veteran board members, Jess Martin, President, and Nicole Mathes, Secretary, are joined by Dan Prince, Nancy Lapotin, Yori Kvetchko, Stephanie Dytham and Brittany Smith.

We also want to recognize Gaiser Middle School, in Vancouver, WA, for being named one of this year's [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#). The Green Ribbon designation is given to schools that are exemplary in reducing environmental impacts and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. Sacajawea Elementary was selected in 2013 and Vancouver Public Schools was recognized as a Green Ribbon District in 2014.

One big action for this fall will be participating in [Northwest Earth Institute's EcoChallenge](#). GPSEN and NWEI won the international UNU-IAS [RCE Recognition Award](#) as an Outstanding Flagship Project in Community Engagement, so we are proud to sponsor another team. Check out the details below in our GPSEN Events section.

We hope you find our newsletter helpful in finding events and resources that are just right for you.

*Interested in having your event, news, or resources in our newsletter?
Share them with the GPSEN community via our [submission form](#).
If you have questions, please contact contact@gpsen.org.*

Contents

- [GPSEN News](#)
- [GPSEN Events](#)
- [NWEI EcoChallenge](#)
- [EcoChallenge: Team Captain Webinar](#)
- [Community Events](#)
- [Columbia Slough Regatta](#)
- [Summer Documentary Program Final Event](#)
- [Momentum Convention: An Unconventional Celebration of Equity](#)
- [Lean Six Sigma for the Environment - Happy Hour Meetup](#)
- [ISSP Portland Chapter Meeting](#)
- [Classes, Workshops & Conferences](#)
- [Just Sustainability Conference](#)
- [Webinars: Sustainability Curriculum Consortium](#)
- [EEAO Environmental Education Conference](#)
- [GoGreen Portland Conference](#)
- [AASHE Conference & Expo](#)
- [Jobs, Internships & Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Job: Columbia Slough School Educator](#)
- [Job: Tualatin Nature Center Weekend Supervisor](#)
- [Job: Community Energy Project Educators](#)
- [Job: PCC Sustainability Assistant](#)
- [Volunteer: Columbia Slough Regatta](#)
- [Volunteer: Hands on Greater Portland](#)
- [GPSEN Fellowships, Internships, and Volunteering](#)
- [Grants & Resources](#)
- [Resource: NOAA Climate Explorer](#)
- [Resource: This Changes Everything Study Guide & Lesson Plan](#)
- [Resource: Oregon Educator Network \(OEN\)](#)
- [Resource: AACC SEED Center](#)
- [Resource: AASHE's Campus Sustainability Hub](#)

GPSEN Events

NWEI EcoChallenge

The EcoChallenge will take place October 14 - 28. GPSEN will definitely host another team this year, as we won the UNU-IAS Outstanding Flagship Project for Community Engagement for last year's efforts. Registration will begin this month, so keep an eye out for an invitation to join our team. Of course, you might also consider creating your own team and creating events that will help support individual actions and team-building efforts for your organization or business.

For more details check out the [EcoChallenge website](#).

EcoChallenge: Team Captain Webinar

Thursday, August 18

11:00 - 11:30 am

To help you get ready for the new and improved [EcoChallenge](#), NWEI is hosting a webinar for team captains. This short (30 minute) webinar is for those ready to take the next step and be a leader in inspiring others to take action. Whether at home, at work, at school or at church, anyone can create a team and be a team captain.

During the webinar you will:

- Learn how to navigate the new EcoChallenge platform
- Learn how easy it is to be a team captain
- Get tips for success when engaging your team
- Hear about other successful captains, including one of our team captains at Ecova, Hester Yorgey
- Learn about features on the EcoChallenge site that can help you and your team meet your goals

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

Community Events

Free Geek: Volunteer Appreciation BBQ and Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, August 6

2:00 - 6:00 pm

Free Geek (parking lot)

1731 SE 10th Ave, Portland

Each summer we throw a big party to honor the more than 2,000 active volunteers that dedicate their time to Free Geek's mission. We try to show volunteers our appreciation every day, but on this extra special day we want to show them with a big party. The Free Geek staff and board will be grilling dogs, scooping snowcones,

and putting our best tech forward (for the raffle, that is) to show our volunteers how much we LOVE them! During the event we also offer a venue for community feedback on our work and impact via our 4 pm Town Hall Meeting with the Free Geek Board of Directors.

For more information and to RSVP via Facebook [click here](#).

Columbia Slough Regatta

Sunday August 7

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

St. Johns Boat Launch

9387 N Columbia Boulevard, Portland

Join our on-the-water festival and celebrate the [Columbia Slough](#)! The [Columbia Slough Regatta](#) returns for its annual festival in honor of Portland's hidden waterway. This wetland waterway provides important habitat for bald eagles, turtles, fish, and otters, as well as enthusiastic kayakers and canoeists. At this year's Regatta, over 400 people will meet to launch into the safe slack water of the Columbia Slough. Despite the name, the Columbia Slough Regatta is not actually a race, more of a leisurely wildlife-watching group paddle. Keep an eye out for Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Western Painted Turtle, Beavers and more!

Featured will be live music by [Kathy Boyd & Phoenix Rising Band](#) and guided tours of the [St. Johns Prairie](#), a former landfill site. Today this prairie is full of native plants that attract Western meadowlarks, streaked horned larks, Western painted turtles and other wildlife.

Unfortunately boat reservations for this event are all sold out. But, you are welcome to bring your own. To register for the festival with your own canoe or kayak [click here](#). For more information you can connect with the [Columbia Slough Council](#) on their website, through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call them at: [503.281.1132](tel:503.281.1132).

Summer Documentary Program Final Event

Wednesday, August 10

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Shout House

210 SE Madison, Portland

Our students of the Summer Documentary Program will present their radio and video documentaries, profiling non-profits and social issues here in Portland. These projects were produced by the students and inspired by media professionals we've met throughout the summer.

The event is free and open to the public, with sponsorship from [Labrewatory](#) and [Hand2Mouth Theatre](#). For more event details, check out our [Facebook event page](#). We hope to see you there!

Oregon Walkways: Connect the Park Blocks

Saturday, August 20

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

NW and SW Park Ave, Portland

Connect the Park Blocks is a one-day open street fair route along NW and SW Park Ave - from NW Hoyt to SW Market. This event will allow people to walk, stroll, jog, and visit local business between the North and South Park Blocks and be clear of parked cars and vehicle traffic. We envision a Park Avenue that is an active space open and welcome to everyone. This project will also promote the [Green Loop](#) concept. Join [Better Block PDX](#), Oregon Walks and the Green Loop Project to increase foot traffic and build community!

[RSVP here!](#)

Momentum Convention: An Unconventional Celebration of Equity

Saturday, August 27

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Portland State University

Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom (Room 335), 1825 SW Broadway, Portland

Momentum Convention brings together underrepresented and emerging young leaders, established community leaders and friends of Momentum Alliance to celebrate hope, resiliency, authentic relationships and social justice. Please visit [our website](#) to learn more and to meet our sponsors!

To buy tickets or sponsor a youth ticket [click here](#). Youth 14 - 23 years old can [register for FREE!](#)

Lean Six Sigma for the Environment - Happy Hour Meetup

Tuesday, August 30

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Ex Novo Brewing

2326 N. Flint Ave. Portland, Oregon 97227

Let's get together at Ex Novo Brewing (nonprofit) to talk about how we can help local businesses and organizations reduce their environmental impact (energy, water, toxins, trash) by using Lean and Six Sigma process improvement techniques. Open to all, regardless of your process improvement experience. Stop by anytime, and if you want to stay later, feel free! There will have a Meetup sign at a table near the bar.

ISSP Portland Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, August 30

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Tom McCall Waterfront Park (*just south of the Hawthorne Bridge*)

SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR

The International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP) Portland Chapter is launching the 2016-2017 season of meetings with this informal evening networking event outdoors at the southern end of the Waterfront Park. In addition to networking with your peers, we'll be gathering your input and reaction to our plan for the year's

meeting program plans.

There is no charge for the event, but [pre-registration is requested](#).

Classes, Workshops & Conferences

Just Sustainability Conference

August 7 - 9

Seattle University
901 12th Avenue, Seattle, Washington

Confronting the sustainability challenges before us calls for collaboration, exchange of ideas, and exploration of solutions by academics and practitioners across every discipline. Six workshops will build expertise and provide tools for your organization and communities. Workshop themes range from “Indigenous Activism,” “Corporate Sustainability” to “Diversity in the Environmental Movement” and “Calculating Your Ecological Footprint.” [Eight featured speakers](#) will highlight how we can work together to ensure the well-being of all people while caring for our common home. Three sustainability tours will take you around some of the most innovative examples of greening efforts by Seattle community members and businesses. Tours include the greenest commercial building in the world (Bullitt Center), a walk through the Beacon Hill Food Forest, and a visit to the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency air sampling station.

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Webinars: Sustainability Curriculum Consortium

Tuesday, August 9 & 23

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Pacific

(SSC) Sustainability Curriculum Consortium’s next scheduled *Online Dialogue* is ready to launch and will focus on the key components of the 2030 Development Agenda — the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sendai Framework on disaster risk. This professional development offering is based on the premise that teaching faculty need to understand the fundamentals of the governing framework for sustainable development for the next 15 years.

[Registration is free](#) and includes both webinars. For more information, [click here](#).

EEAO Environmental Education Conference

September 28 - 30 (conference)

August 15 (early-bird registration deadline)

[Suttle Lake Camp](#)

Sisters, Oregon

The Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) is hosting their annual conference. This year's theme is: "Enhancing Our Communities Through Environmental Education." We will cover topics such as:

- Community Science
- Technology and Environmental Education
- School Gardens and Farm to School
- Best Practices
- Global Climate Change - A Local Look
- Staying Current with Existing/Emerging Standards/Legislation
- Watershed Education
- Creating Partnerships - Regional Collaborations Efforts

For more information visit the [conference website](#) and consider [becoming a sponsor](#).

GoGreen Portland Conference

Wednesday, October 5

World Trade Center

3rd Floor, 25 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97205

Now in its ninth year, GoGreen Portland has established itself as the largest regional conference for business and government decision-makers to come together for one day to learn from recognized community leaders to advance sustainability best practices in their own organizations. GoGreen empowers attendees with the strategies, tools and connections through networking opportunities to advance the triple bottom line.

Tickets range from \$45-\$175. Check out the [Registration page](#) for full details.

AASHE Conference & Expo

October 9 - 12

Baltimore, Maryland

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is pleased to announce that registration for the [2016 AASHE Conference & Expo](#). With a theme of "Beyond the Campus," AASHE 2016 focuses on the dissemination and implementation of sustainability solutions on higher education campuses, surrounding communities, and the world.

Join us as we bring together campus change agents who are motivated to lead the global sustainability movement. More than 2,300 attendees will take part in a variety of informative workshops, inspirational sessions, and tours, as well as an expo hall with innovative products and services from more than 90 exhibitors. This is an opportunity to share new ideas, strategies, and tactics on how we can implement campus sustainability initiatives in the surrounding community and beyond.

For more information [click here](#).

Jobs, Internships & Volunteer Opportunities

Job: Columbia Slough School Educator

Monday, August 1 (application deadline- 4 pm)

Help to support and implement the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's classroom and field programming. The Slough School Educator provides accessible, high-quality lessons to a wide array of K-12 students at schools within the Columbia Slough Watershed. The Educator will teach programs both independently and as part of a team. They will maintain and organize teaching materials, and are also responsible for communicating with the schools, teachers, and organizations that they work with. The Educator will also support the training and mentorship of an Education Intern.

For more information, [click here](#).

Job: Tualatin Nature Center Weekend Supervisor

August 5 (application deadline)

Know someone who loves working with people and sharing their love of nature with the public? The [Tualatin Hills Nature Center](#) in Beaverton is looking for a part-time Weekend Supervisor. They will be responsible for customer service, general clerical work, building and patron security, sharing natural resource information, and the overall supervision of the Tualatin Hills Nature Center during weekend hours, often working in the facility unaccompanied. The position is year-round, including Friday afternoons, Saturdays, and Sundays (averaging 20-25 hours/week).

For more information [click here](#).

Job: Community Energy Project Educators

August 14 (application deadline)

The Community Energy Project (CEP) Community Educators have the incredible opportunity to share valuable skills with participants through our dynamic, comprehensive workshops! This is grassroots community education at work, a chance to do on the ground work that is challenging and fulfilling. If you have a talent for public speaking, love sharing with others, and have a passion for home health and energy conservation, then this could be the job for you.

We have two full-time positions, one seasonal, one year-round on [Lead Poisoning Prevention](#) and [DIY Weatherization](#). For more information [click here](#).

Job: PCC Sustainability Assistant

Portland Community College's Sustainability Department is looking for a passionate, energetic and organized individual to join our team in a part-time, temporary capacity to advance the college's sustainability efforts. Under direction of the District Sustainability Manager, the Sustainability Assistant will assist with college-wide sustainability projects and initiatives and provide administrative support.

For more information and a complete job description, check out [PCC's Sustainability page](#). For questions, email: briar.schoon@pcc.edu

Volunteer: Columbia Slough Regatta

Sunday, August 7

St. Johns Boat Launch
9387 N Columbia Boulevard

The Columbia Slough Regatta returns for its 22nd year. This annual celebration highlights recreation opportunities on a hidden gem of local waterways. The event draws more than 400 participants for a morning of paddling and nature exploration. Volunteer in any number of fast paced, fun positions and help make this historic event a success! Volunteers can expect a busy, festival-like atmosphere. This is a great opportunity to network with members of a local organization and get to know the Slough environment. We'll provide training and snacks all day. All volunteers receive a free event t-shirt! This is a great event for groups and individuals. Volunteers are needed for set-up (7:00 - 9:00 am), event shift (8:30 am - 1:00 pm), and clean-up (12:30 - 2:30 pm).

For more information about the event [click here](#). To register as a volunteer [click here](#).

Volunteer: Hands on Greater Portland

Hands On Greater Portland connects individuals and groups with volunteer opportunities that make a meaningful, rewarding change in the Portland area. Build a house. Tutor a child. Care for abandoned pets. Build hiking trails. Lead a volunteer group. Join a nonprofit Board.

Whether you are working, parenting, in school or retired, Hands On Greater Portland offers you a variety of ways to get involved while meeting your schedule and interests. Volunteer for a one-time project. Volunteer for a few weeks. Volunteer after work or on the weekends. Volunteer alone, with family, friends or co-workers. Get connected. Get more done. Have fun. You might even change the world.

To learn more about the program, [click here](#).

GPSEN Fellowships, Internships, and Volunteering

There are many ways to sets to [get involved](#) in GPSEN! Consider becoming a fellow, intern, volunteer, committee or working group member to make a difference. Our new GPSEN Fellows position offers a great opportunity for individuals with particular research interests and skills to dig deeper into sustainability issues, in

addition to serving in a valuable advisory role. Credit and non-credit opportunities are available for internships.

Grants & Resources

Resource: NOAA Climate Explorer

NOAA's newly updated [Climate Explorer](#) offers downloadable maps, graphs, and data tables of observed and projected temperature, precipitation and related climate variables dating back to 1950 and out to 2100 for every county in the contiguous United States. Built to accompany the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#), the [Climate Explorer](#) helps community leaders, business owners, municipal planners, and utility and resource managers understand how environmental conditions may change over the next several decades.

For more information about the new version of Climate Explorer, [click here](#).

Resource: This Changes Everything Study Guide & Lesson Plan

Whether teachers in the US would be comfortable using this in classrooms remains to be seen given the political/activist focus of this curriculum, but for some students this will be just what they need to tackle the climate challenge. A free guide is now available for the Naomi Klein book and film, "This Changes Everything," targeted at grades 9-12. Its aim is to help look critically at the idea of how our economic system's push for continual growth impacts both the environment and quality of life for all people.

The study guide includes a lesson plan, handouts, excerpts from Klein's book, video clips, and resources. For more information, [click here](#).

Resource: Oregon Educator Network (OEN)

Thanks to the Oregon Department of Education, educators across the state can have free access to resources. The [Oregon Educator Network \(OEN\)](#) provides resources and conversation tools that are helpful in a variety of ways, including providing access to our PSS Environmental Education group within OEN.

For more information, check out their website: <http://www.oregonednet.org>

Resource: AACCC SEED Center

The Sustainability Education & Economic Development (SEED) Center is a leadership initiative of the [American Association of Community Colleges](#) that provides strategic guidance and resources for community colleges to support

programs that educate America's 21st century workforce to meet the changing demands of the clean economy. For more details and resources, check out the [SEED Center website](#).

Resource: AASHE's Campus Sustainability Hub

The [Campus Sustainability Hub](#) is an online resource library that allows AASHE members to connect, share and learn about sustainability in higher education. The Hub is designed to raise the visibility of institutions' sustainability programs and materials, and to facilitate information sharing between campuses and organizations. Users can submit resources to share information on their programs and achievements. Please see our [Submission Guidelines](#) to learn more.

*Share your news with the GPSEN community via our [submission form](#).
If you have questions, please email: contact@gpsen.org.*

Check out our [website](#) to become a partner, get involved,
or find out more information about GPSEN.

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