



## GREATER PORTLAND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION NETWORK

A Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

### December 2015 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.*

## GPSEN News

As we have noted multiple times, 2015 is a huge year for sustainability. December is no exception, with the COP21 Conference on Climate Change occurring right now in Paris. We are keeping a close eye on developments and are posting the most current news on our [GPSEN Facebook page](#). With Mayor Charlie Hales and Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Manager Michael Armstrong there, Portland is well represented. Over 200 U.S. universities and colleges, including several in the Portland region, signed a pledge to demonstrate their support for strong climate action as well.

We will discuss the outcomes of COP21 at our GPSEN Partner Meeting and Party (details below), on December 17, as well as highlight our new partner program and celebrate the successes of the Northwest Earth Institute. Did you realize that of the 4,300 people who participated in the EcoChallenge this year, 10% of them were affiliated with GPSEN partners? Really proud of everyone's great work!

In collaboration with the United Nations Association, we also will be celebrating this year's Human Rights Day, on December 10. This year's focus is on "education as a human right." We hope you will join us!

There is so much passion in our community to create a sustainable future. May your efforts thrive and continue to be nurtured as we enter a new year.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Share your news, events, and resources with the GPSEN community via our [submission form](#). Submissions should be made by the 28th of the month to be included in the newsletter. If you have questions, please contact [news.gpsen@gmail.com](mailto:news.gpsen@gmail.com).

For the most current news and resources, connect with GPSEN and the broader network via social media.



Facebook



Twitter



Email



Website

---

## Contents

- [GPSEN News](#)
- [GPSEN Events](#)
- [UN Human Rights Day: Education as a Human Right](#)
- [GPSEN Partner Meeting and Party](#)
- [Community Events](#)
- [Briefing on the Historic Climate Convening and Tips for Effective Advocacy](#)
- [UN Climate Change Conference Report](#)
- [Film: “The Olmsted Vision: Past, Present and Future”](#)
- [Classes, Workshops & Conferences](#)
- [Class: Solving Environmental Problems with Lean Six Sigma](#)
- [Call for Student Climate Justice Abstracts](#)
- [Course: Understanding Climate Change](#)
- [Earth Care Summit: Renewing Creation from the Ground Up](#)
- [On-line Course: How To Get A Job In Sustainability](#)
- [Grants, Jobs & Resources](#)
- [Job: Environmental Education Program Coordinator](#)
- [Grant: Partners in Conservation](#)
- [Job: Americorps Confluence Fellows](#)
- [Job: Conference Coordinator](#)
- [eBook: Powering a Bright Future](#)
- [Resource: World Resources Institute's](#)
- [Award: U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#)

## **UN Human Rights Day: Education as a Human Right**

Thursday, December 10

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

PCC Cascade, Student Union, 2nd Floor

705 N Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97217

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). This year, we are focusing on education as a human right, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#).

A panel of experts will discuss this topic, with special focus given to the accessibility and affordability of education in Portland and around the world. Presenters include Dr. General Johnson, PCC Faculty in Health Education and Leadership Development, Koffi Dessou, with the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights and TOGO Core, Alisha Zhao, founder of the Kids First Project, Deidre Schuetz, founder of Lanyi Fan, and Nikki Gillis, Officer of Equity, Access, and Inclusion at Mt. Hood Community College. Opportunities for discussion of this important issue will follow the presentations.

This is a free event, with tabling and light refreshments.

This event is co-sponsored by GPSEN, Kids First Project, Know Agenda Foundation, Lanyi Fan, Portland Community College, Portland Community College Cascade Black Student Union, Portland Human Rights Commission, TOGO CORE, Trash for Peace, and the United Nations Association of Portland. For an inspiring video [click here](#).

## **GPSEN Partner Meeting and Party**

Thursday, December 17

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI)

107 SE Washington Street, Portland, OR 97214

Our end-of-the-year Partner Meeting will also be a party. There is so much to celebrate! In addition to exploring the outcomes of the COP21 Climate Summit, we will highlight our new partner program and celebrate the successes of the Northwest Earth Institute. Not only was the EcoChallenge a big success, but we also get to send Mike Mercer off in style and welcome the new NWEI Executive Director, David Macek.

As always, there will also be opportunities to share ideas, announcements, and materials, so feel free to bring items to share. Don't miss out on this valuable time to discuss, network, and share in good cheer.

---

## Community Events

### **Briefing on the Historic Climate Convening and Tips for Effective Advocacy**

Tuesday, December 1

2:00 - 3:00 pm

Conference Call

World leaders are gathering in Paris for a landmark convening to complete a new global climate agreement – an extraordinary opportunity for the international community to rise to meet the threat of climate change. UN Foundation has launched #EarthtoParis to drive awareness and host events that highlight the connection between people and planet and the need for strong action on climate; to showcase climate solutions and innovations; to bring together communities to promote collaboration; and to engage people around the world in the dialogue taking place in Paris. Whether you're in Paris, France or Paris, Texas, you can help to drive the conversation and advocate for strong climate action in December.

Join us for a conversation with Ryan Hobert, Senior Director, Energy and Climate, at the UN Foundation for an in-depth look at these once-in-a-generation climate negotiations and how to best advocate to tackle climate change.

U.S./Canada Dial-in: [888-312-9849](tel:888-312-9849)

Passcode: **6695154**

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

### **UN Climate Change Conference Report**

Wednesday, December 9

4:00 - 6:00 pm

World Forestry Center

4033 SW Canyon Rd, Portland

The World Forestry Center, The Nature Conservancy, and the Pinchot Institute will hold a public lecture reporting on the UN Climate Change Conference being held in Paris, France. Dr. Steven Running was a chapter Lead Author for the 4th Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He received his M.S. in Forest Management at OSU and his Ph.D. in Forest Ecophysiology at CSU (Colorado). He is now a Regents Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of Montana, where he has been since 1979. Dr. Running will be "on the ground" at the World Forestry Center while the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) will be taking place in Paris. He will talk about the latest climate negotiations, and the specific role global forests have in the Earth climate system.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 general admission.

To register [click here](#).

**Film: "The Olmsted Vision: Past, Present and Future"**

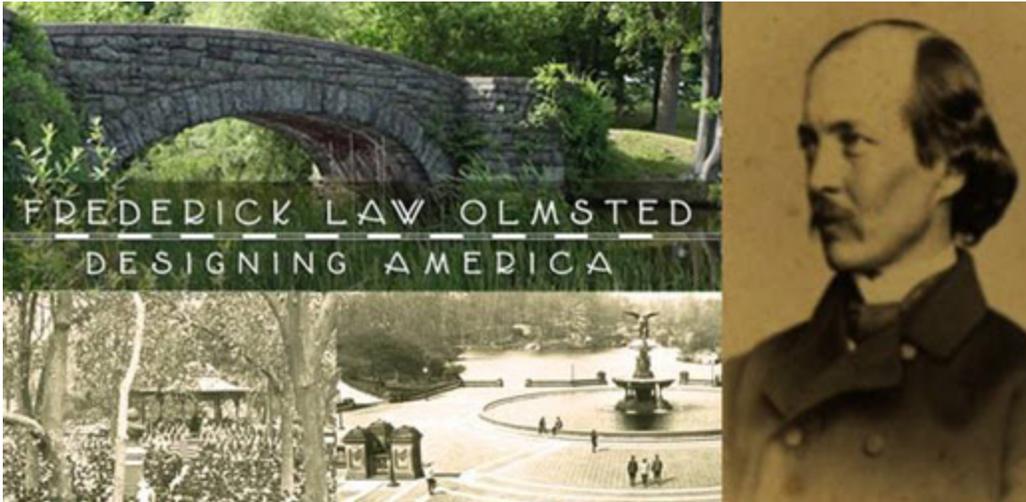
Wednesday, Dec. 9

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

McMenamin's Mission Theater & Pub

1624 NW Glisan St, Portland, OR 97209

The Intertwine Alliance and Portland Parks & Recreation cordially invite you to their new [Our Common Ground Film Series](#). Kicking off the film series, feast your eyes on the documentary "Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America," a fascinating story of how one man redefined the role that natural spaces play in our lives.



The Olmsted family had a huge impact on Portland's system of parks, trails and natural areas, developing a vision that shaped decades of parks planning. Following the film will be a panel conversation between Mike Abbate, director of Portland Parks & Recreation; Mike Houck, executive director of Urban Greenspaces Alliance; Bill Hawkins, local architect, historian and author of *The Legacy of the Olmsted Brothers in Portland*; and Laurence Cotton, historian, author and consulting producer of our evening's feature film.

Celebrate the region's parks legacy with this fun evening of friends and libations. It's free, and open to the public.

---

## Classes, Workshops & Conferences

### **Community Energy Project Workshops**

December 1-17

Locations vary

[See calendar for details](#)

Community Energy Project's workshop season continues, with opportunities to prepare you for winter: Basic Weatherization and DIY Insulation. We have great information on how to save energy, whether you rent or own, whether you live in a house or a mobile home! Now is also a great time to come to a Lead Poisoning Prevention or Lead-Safe Home Projects workshop.

[Check our calendar for the next presentation in your area!](#) Want to host a workshop in your community? [Contact us](#) to set it up.

### **Class: Solving Environmental Problems with Lean Six Sigma**

December 5 – 6

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

PSU: Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) – Room 323

1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR

The 2-day class will cover the 3 step process for reducing environmental impacts with your clients, or within your own organization. This approach can work for any type of problem, but our examples and focus will be on the 5 types of environmental W.A.S.T.E. (Water, Air Emissions, Solid Waste, Toxins, and Energy). After taking the course, you will feel confident in your ability to understand the “See, Solve, Sustain” framework, and determine what gaps you have in being able to follow this approach in your organization or with your customers or clients. You will not be an expert after just two days, but through practice and support from us, you will be able to make a huge impact on the environment. This approach will work with companies and agencies at any phase of their environmental journey, whether they are just getting started, or already industry-recognized for their stewardship. Cost is \$397 per person.

For more information [click here](#) or contact Brion Hurley at: [brionhurley@gmail.com](mailto:brionhurley@gmail.com)

### **Call for Student Climate Justice Abstracts**

*December 31 (Application Deadline)*

The Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice’s (IWG EJ) new “Educate, Motivate and Innovate (EMI) Climate Justice Initiative” Sub-Committee is reaching out to our next generation of young climate-justice leaders attending Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). We are seeking student-developed climate justice projects to showcase during our Inaugural EMI Climate Justice Training Workshop as part of the 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program to be held March 9-12, 2016 in Washington, DC.

The workshop focus is on the effects of climate change on communities with underserved, minority, low-income, or tribal populations. The emphasis is on the relationships between climate change, human health, traditional practices, economic development, and environmental justice (EJ). Student projects are being sought that are related to EJ and climate justice and that are educational, motivating and innovative. Of particular interest are projects that are ongoing or that could be replicated by other MSI’s, partner agencies, or organizations.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Course: Understanding Climate Change**

January 4 - March 19

3:00 - 5:50 pm, Fridays

Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus

Introduction to global warming and climate change processes, covering the basic

science, projected impacts, and approaches to mitigation including an analysis of proposed policy measures, energy conservation and alternative energy solutions. Audit available.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Earth Care Summit: Renewing Creation from the Ground Up**

January 30, 8:00 - 9:30 pm

January 31, 2:00 - 7:30 pm

University of Portland

5000 N Willamette Blvd, Portland, Oregon

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns invites you to the Seventh Annual Earth Care Summit: "Renewing Creation from the Ground Up" at the University of Portland. The Summit will explore the interrelationships of soil, food, faith and climate. The Summit provides opportunities for networking among congregations, community agencies and businesses that are involved in the greening process; sharing best practices; and celebrating the many creative ways of caring for creation.

On Saturday, January 30th the Climate Arts Event will feature Kim Stafford and Anna Fritz. On Sunday, January 31 the Summit will feature a keynote by the Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, Keetowah Cherokee legal descendant, breakout sessions, dinner, a resource fair, highlights from the UN Paris Climate Conference and closing remarks from Mayor Charlie Hales.

Public transit is recommended because of a sports event taking place at the same time. Registration is available online at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org) or download a [registration form](#). For more information, call Program Assistant Heather Moline, at [503-221-1054](tel:503-221-1054) x205 or download a flyer by [clicking here](#).

### **On-line Course: How To Get A Job In Sustainability**

Open enrollment

[International Society of Sustainability Professionals](#)

Whether you are looking for your first job in the sustainability field or seeking to advance your career, there are several ways to make yourself rise to the top of the résumé pile. In this module, you will learn some of the best practices for professionals looking to begin or advance their career in the sustainability field.

Key takeaways include:

- How to emphasize your sustainability experience on a résumé
- How to narrow your job search and hone in on key jobs
- How to plan and advance your sustainability career
- Best practices for networking and tips for talking to the right people

For more information [click here](#).

---

## Grants, Jobs & Resources

### **Job: Environmental Education Program Coordinator**

*December 4, 5:00 pm (Application Deadline)*

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation's Natural Resources Department

Based out of the Tualatin Hills Nature Center in Beaverton, the Environmental Education Program Coordinator is responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating environmental education programs, special events, and outdoor recreation activities; leading the work of education staff and volunteers; and performing other duties as needed.

For more information and application instructions [click here](#).

### **Grant: Partners in Conservation**

*December 14, 4:00 pm (Application Deadline)*

Our grant programs support conservation and education projects that serve residents within the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) service area, which includes all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River. Projects must address one or more of the following topics:

- Habitat Restoration / Monitoring
- Water Quality / Conservation
- Sustainable Agriculture/ Gardening
- Naturescaping
- Stormwater Management

Funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$60,000 for PIC projects, or up to \$100,000 per year for multi-year PIC Plus projects. If you plan to request a PIC grant of \$30,000 or more, or if this will be your first time applying for a grant, please be sure to [email Suzanne](#) to run your ideas by her.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Job: Americorps Confluence Fellows**

The Conservation Fellows Program is an unprecedented opportunity to directly engage an underprivileged community in building environmental health that will have lasting impact. Fellows serve on a variety of initiatives, all designed to:

1. Boost capacity to deliver programs consistently through building a history of strong impact and a broad base of community members engaged in conservation in Lents.

2. Create stronger leadership pipelines in these organizations, increasing adaptability, resilience to transitions, planning, and program delivery.
3. Facilitate collaborations and the development of a shared agenda between Lents conservation organizations to increase the likelihood of strong impact on priority community issues.
4. Create a replicable model for building community strength in other neighborhoods and communities.

Confluence Fellows positions are full time, 11-months and start on January 14.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Job: Conference Coordinator**

*January 6, 2016 (Application Deadline)*

Environmental Education Association of Oregon (EEAO) is seeking an energetic, experienced coordinator for the next Oregon Environmental Education Conference. The coordinator will work on a contract basis with a planning committee and EEAO's board of directors to implement an outstanding conference for 100-200 educators in the Fall of 2016 in central Oregon.

Compensation: \$6,000. 300 - 400 hrs. estimated over a period of 8 months. Flexible schedule from Feb 15 – Oct 15, 2016. Firm schedule the event: Sept. 28 - 30, 2016.

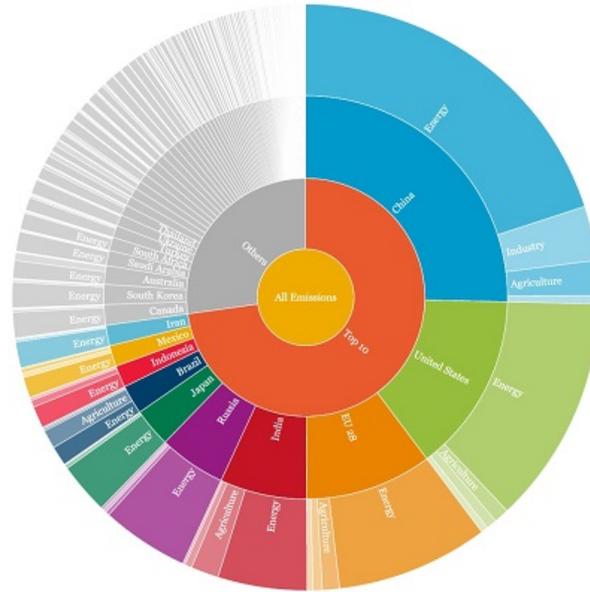
For more information [click here](#).

### **eBook: Powering a Bright Future**

The Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) has released a new course book! Powering a Bright Future is a three-session discussion course exploring issues related to energy use, and what we can do to take action as individuals and communities interested in promoting energy sustainability. This course contains solution-based content encouraging discourse on energy production and extraction, peak oil, fossil fuel subsidies, energy efficiency, equity, energy policy and environmental impacts.

For more information [click here](#).

### **Resource: World Resources Institute's Climate Data Explorer**



CAIT is one of the most trusted sources of climate data available. It's free and open source and provides comprehensive, comparable climate and emissions data. CAIT is made up of a suite of tools that allow users to utilize the data to understand considerations of equity in climate negotiations, see transparency and available information in country climate action commitments, interact with historical emissions data, and dive into the methodologies behind future emissions projections. CAIT allows national governments, international organizations and independent researchers to perform relevant analysis and promote efficient action on climate change. The Climate Data Explorer includes [8 Interactive Graphics to Answer Top Climate Change Questions](#).

For more information [click here](#).

**Award: U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools**

*Application deadlines vary from November - January*

The aim of [U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools](#) (ED-GRS) is to inspire schools, districts and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to strive for 21st century excellence, by highlighting promising practices and resources that all can employ. To that end, the award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs that:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs
- Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff
- Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways

Most participating state education authorities have December submission deadlines with some falling in November or January. For applications, interested colleges and universities should contact their [state higher education authorities](#), while schools and districts should contact their [state education agencies](#). Schools, districts, and post-secondary institutions are only eligible if nominated by state

authorities. State education authorities' participation is voluntary. Hearing from interested applicants may be helpful to those states considering participation. State education authorities can find updated [criteria](#) and other state implementation [guidance](#) on our website. For more information you may also email the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools by [clicking here](#).

---

*Share your news with the GPSEN community via our [submission form](#)  
by the 28th of the month for the following month's newsletter.  
If you have questions, please contact [news.gpsen@gmail.com](mailto:news.gpsen@gmail.com).*

Check out our [website](#) to become a member, complete the Engagement Pledge,  
or find out more information about GPSEN.

---

Copyright © 2015 GPSEN, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rectangular box.