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## GREATER PORTLAND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION NETWORK

A Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

### May 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.*

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## GPSEN News

It sure was an exciting April. Hope you had a great Earth Day! Now, onto May and more sustainability opportunities.

Lots of big news for our partners as well. In addition to our last post on the [Intertwine Alliance's \\$1 million grant](#) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we also learned that [Lewis & Clark was chosen as the top Green College](#) in the nation, by the Princeton Review. Plus, Image Elementary School, in Vancouver, WA, won the U.S. Department of Education's [Green Ribbon Schools Award!](#) The only one in our region! Congratulations for all of your accomplishments, everyone!

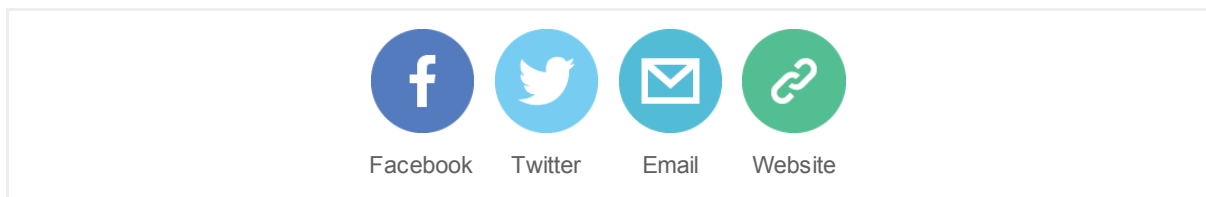
GPSEN has moved to a new level of organization, with continued focus on multi-sector networking to support our region in sustainability partnerships, outreach, programs, and research. Interested in serving on GPSEN's Coordinating Committee, Subcommittees, or Working Groups and helping create a more sustainable future?

We are accepting nominations! Internship opportunities are now available too. Learn about ways to get involved at our [website](#).

*If you have events, workshops, conferences, and/or resources that you would like included in the GPSEN newsletter and calendar, submit your details via our [submission form](#) by the 25th of the month for the following month's newsletter.*

*If you have questions, please contact [news.gpsen@gmail.com](mailto:news.gpsen@gmail.com).*

*For the most current news and updates, be sure to like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and/or check out our website.*



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## GPSEN Events

### **2015 Youth Virtual Conference of the RCEs**

Friday, May 15

This year's award-winning Youth Virtual Conference of the RCEs will focus on Energy Systems and Sustainability. This annual conference gives students the perspective and practice of a global dialogue, in hopes that they will better understand the unique dilemmas facing the regions of the world through dialogue, empathy and collaboration.

Secondary school students (ages 14-18) from RCE cities across the world will be linked in a peer-education symposium, including schools in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Regina, Saskatchewan, Medellin, Colombia, Brasilito, Costa Rica, Curitiba-Parana, Brazil, and our very own Rex Putnam High School, in Portland, Oregon.

Each class/student group will present their research on a sustainability related energy issues of interest to them and their region.

You can catch a [livestream](#) of the conference on YouTube. In addition, Elena Maigan McKendrick, an alumnus of Grand Rapids City High Middle and the first Youth Virtual Conference in 2013, will be moderating a live chat of the event on the same page. She will be bringing her own unique perspective to the event and we are encouraging all viewers to login with their Gmail accounts to extend the conversation as part of the chat session.

### **GPSEN Partner and Stakeholder Meeting**

Thursday, May 28

10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: PCC Cascade, Room TBA

705 N Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97217

GPSEN is taking it to the next level. Learn about and help frame our new partnership model, connect with and create internships, and network with peers. Greater

Portland is our geography, but it is also our aspiration. Let's do this together.

## **RCE 2015 Conference of the Americas**

August 9 - 12

Grand Rapids, Michigan

All of our GPSEN partners are invited to attend this conference to help shape regional, national, and international programs and policies. It is a wonderful way to network and learn best practices from RCEs across the Americas. Plus, we will be talking about the Global Action Programme on ESD. More details to follow.

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## **Community Events**

### **YO MISS!**

Friday, May 1

7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

PSU Lincoln Hall Auditorium

1620 SW Park Avenue, Portland

Written, performed and live sound engineered by Judith Sloan; performed with Josh Henderson on Viola. Fusing the art of theatre, poetry, and music, YO MISS! is a sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always truth-telling show about one woman overcoming her own traumatic experiences as she helps immigrant/refugee teenagers and incarcerated youth grapple with the cataclysmic events that shaped them. Using an original musical score to accompany her compelling performance, Judith Sloan transforms into a multitude of characters ages 14 to 80 years young.

General admission: \$10; Faculty/staff/alumni: \$7; Students: FREE (Entry is by ticket only) Tickets: [pdx.edu/boxoffice](http://pdx.edu/boxoffice)

Information: [anctil@pdx.edu](mailto:anctil@pdx.edu)

### **Walk + Bike Challenge**

May is National Bike Month, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to giving biking a try.

The Oregon Walk + Bike Challenge is a friendly competition aimed at encouraging more kids and families to walk and bike to and from school and throughout their neighborhoods. The Challenge is hosted by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) with support from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, our sponsors ([Grouptrail](#) and [Chipotle](#)), and

other partners.

[Register here.](#)

## **STEM Week Oregon**

May 2-10, 2015

STEM Week Oregon is a state-wide movement to raise awareness, celebrate and engage young people in activities involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Check the new [STEM Oregon website](#) to promote statewide and regional hub activities and [STEMWeek toolkit for educators & partners](#), and [register](#) your organization's STEM Week activities and events and WIN PRIZES: The Portland Metro hub is raffling 2 Fitbits among those who register their events and the state is raffling 2 tablets!

## **Outdoor School for All**

Wednesday, May 6

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

The Mazamas Mountaineering Center

527 SE 43rd, Portland, OR 97215

Join us for a discussion and organizing meeting about the impact and opportunities of Outdoor Education in Oregon! Topics will include: stories about how outdoor education changes lives, impacting physical and mental health, test scores, behavior, and civic leadership skills; Outdoor School Legislation, and strengthening the network of advocates for outdoor education in Oregon.

Light snacks and drinks are provided. RSVP to [jillian@oregonoutdoored.org](mailto:jillian@oregonoutdoored.org)

## **Ecotrust Presents: Opening the Black Box**

Thursday, May 14

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Ecotrust

721 NW 9th Avenue, Portland, OR

Rebuilding our food infrastructure to serve regional farmers and eaters. Everything we eat moves through an elaborate, multifaceted process that is little understood — we call it the food system. It appears removed from our daily lives, yet it impacts our environment, families, communities, and economies.

At the final event in this series, we dive into the unknown and unveil the results of a one-year study Ecotrust has undertaken to understand our region's food infrastructure and identify obstacles to creating a robust regional food system. We will then invite experts to discuss how entrepreneurs are working to create new markets and how funders are approaching strategic investments with the whole

system in mind. How can we leverage our collective skills and expertise to create systemic solutions that better serve all regional eaters?

Cost \$15. Purchase tickets and register [here](#).

### **Endangered Species Day**

May 15, 2015

Take time to reflect on, learn about, and support endangered species. Zoos, aquariums, botanic gardens, wildlife refuges, conservation groups, national parks, museums, and schools throughout the country will hold tours, open houses, special presentations, exhibits, milkweed plantings and butterfly garden installations, habitat clean-ups and other restoration events, children's activities and more on May 15, that weekend, and throughout May.

Participate in a local event or take action individually. To find out about events or to register an event, [click here](#).

### **Community Energy Project Spring Social**

Wednesday, May 20

5:30pm-7:30pm

Base Camp Brewing Company

930 Southeast Oak Street, Portland, OR 97214

Change is afoot at CEP: new office, new staff, new programs! Come join us for delicious food and drinks as well as opportunities to mingle with community members, and learn more about CEP, the beneficiary for the evening. We will also be honoring outstanding volunteers who help make CEP a truly community focused organization.

\$25 Early Bird (ends April 30), \$30 General Admission

Your ticket includes a free drink and appetizers. [Please show your support by purchasing a ticket today.](#)

### **Bicycle Transportation Alliance's 25th Anniversary**

Thursday, May 28

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Portland Art Museum

2015 marks the 25th anniversary for the [Bicycle Transportation Alliance \(BTA\)](#). From humble beginnings grew a passionate organization dedicated to fostering healthy, sustainable communities. You, along with thousands of BTA members throughout the last 25 years, have built an organization poised to take on the challenges of the next 25 years.

We want to celebrate, and kick off the next 25 years with you. Please join us for 25th Anniversary Celebration. For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

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## Workshops & Conferences

### **Dig Into Spring: Free Gardening Workshops**

Brought to you by the Easy Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. See [full schedule and register online](#). Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Information: [503-222-7645](tel:503-222-7645).

#### **Green Dot Project**

Monday, May 11

5pm-7:30pm

Portland State University, Room 123

1600 SW 4th Av, Portland

Tuesday, May 12

9:00-11:00am

2100 NW 19th Av, Suite A, Portland

Jeff Goebel is back for two more Green Dot Project events related to our climate change solution initiative. The Green Dot Project facilitates a substantiated community consensus building process which increases human capacity to implement, measure, innovate and adopt methods to put carbon in the ground. We provide local communities with education, capacity building, problem-solving, and organizational strategies for planning and carrying out action strategies. The consensus-driven action plans are created by community members, including elders, youth, nonprofits, for-profits, and governmental agencies. In the consensus building process, fears are expressed and addressed, transformational beliefs and behaviors are identified and cultivated, a mechanism for action is firmly established, and action plans are developed.

While the prognosis for a stable climate appears bleak, we can and must rapidly sequester significant amounts of carbon to offset the dangerous amounts of carbon in the atmosphere. Massive carbon sequestration can be accomplished through increased, community-supported photosynthesis and food production. On Monday, May 11, Jeff will give a presentation about the Green Dot Project climate change solution initiative. On Tuesday, May 12, we will hold a community meeting for people interested in strategizing and participating in the Green Dot Project.

#### **CLF Webinars: Equity Atlas Development Toolkit**

*Equity Atlas Basics*

Tuesday, May 12

11:00am-12:00pm PST

### *Building an Equity Atlas*

Wednesday, May 27

11:00-12:00pm PST

The Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) recently released the [Equity Atlas Development Toolkit](#) to support communities across the country in developing their own equity atlases. CLF's launching of the nation's first Equity Atlas in 2007 inspired several other regions to undertake similar projects, and many others have expressed interest in creating their own equity atlases to support research, coalition-building, and policy change. The toolkit provides users with an overview of the atlas development process, walks them through each of the major steps, and provides useful sample materials and resource links.

To learn more about the Equity Atlas Toolkit and how to create an equity atlas for your region, please join us for our webinars. [Register Online](#)

### **Compass Education Webinar: Whole school strategies and approaches to ESD**

Thursday, May 21

3.00 - 4.00 PM (UTC+8)

RCE Penang is delighted to invite you to this webinar by Robert Steele (Sustainability, Thailand), based on the current work being done with schools in Asia through Compass Education to embed sustainability education into all aspects of school mission and culture.

To join the webinar, please [click on the link on May 21](#).

### **Village Building Convergence 2015**

May 29 - June 7

Ten-day urban permaculture extravaganza! Participate at sites around the city to create natural building, permaculture, and public art projects, including benches, community kiosks, gardens, street paintings, tile mosaics, and more! Neighbors have been collaboratively designing these projects for months. People come from near and far to learn skills and help bring these designs to life, while celebrating creativity and diversity! This part of the event is free.

Gather at a central venue for a night of wholesome food, presentations by leaders in the forefront of positive change, and exhilarating musical performances from local bands and DJ's. Prices here are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, with added pricing options for food. Worktrade is available most nights to make the event widely accessible.

To learn about sites, locations, speakers, and events and buy tickets, check out [our website](#).



## **IslandWood Multicultural Environmental Education Conference: Educating for Resilient Communities**

Saturday, May 30  
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM  
Seattle, WA

The environmental movement is full of passionate, dedicated individuals and organizations who are motivated to make change in society by changing our mentality to be more aware of our impact on the earth. Our conference seeks to take our passion and dedication and delve into further understanding the role educators can take to support communities from within. Join us for this conference to unify the efforts of Environmental Education leaders and provide strategies for supporting healthy, resilient communities. Conference attendees will gain useful, practical tools that are relevant and applicable to their role in their communities. We will be empowered to use the knowledge we acquire at the conference, and the connections we make with other educators, to take action towards improving the health and resilience of our communities.

Registration is free, but donations are accepted. [More details here.](#)

## **Oregon Ecopsychology Symposium: Expression, Scholarship and Engagement**

Friday, June 5, 2015  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Lewis & Clark Graduate Campus, South Chapel  
0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road. Portland, OR 97219

Beyond simply applying psychology to help solve environmental problems, ecopsychology reenvision the idea of psychology itself to better reflect humankind's interdependence and interbeing with the rest of nature and to directly address issues of social and environmental justice.

This daylong symposium will bring together several Oregon scholars and practitioners to explore ecopsychology and kindred endeavors from the perspectives of creativity and self-expression, teaching and research, and socially engaged therapeutic practices. Featuring expert speakers, refreshments, a networking lunch, and large group dialogue, attendees will have an unprecedented opportunity to see and hear a number of local experts speak to the "ecopsychological" in their work through a series of brief individual talks.

Registration fees: \$125, includes 6.5 CEUs or PDUs, \$50 students. Lunch is included. For information and to register, [click here.](#)

## **Inaugural Love Summit at Wieden+Kennedy**

Saturday, June 13

Wieden+Kennedy Advertising Agency  
224 NW 13th Ave, Portland, OR 97209

Dan Price, CEO of Gravity Payments, disrupted the payment inequality discussion worldwide by compassionately raising the minimum salary for each of his 120 employees to \$70k and cutting his \$1M salary down to \$70k. Since then, he has been featured on the TODAY Show, Larry King Now, CNN, NBC, NY Times and more. He will speak at the inaugural Love Summit—along with more of our world's foremost business, government and thought leaders—about why compassionate business practices are the key to creating a more sustainable, just and peaceful world.

Heart-brain connection science paired with the real-time experience of distinguished business experts will demonstrate how companies and consumers can follow both mind and heart to achieve positive relationships with each other and the planet. Love Summit speakers will show how using love as the basis for all personal, business and government decisions can create greater social, environmental and economic security for all.

General admission: \$495. Tickets are HALF OFF for small businesses, nonprofits and students. To learn more and register, please visit the conference organizer's website: [www.dreamchange.org](http://www.dreamchange.org).

## **Portland Summer Sustainability Institute (SSI)**

June 18-19, 2015  
Portland, Oregon

The 2015 Summer Sustainability Institute, entitled "Supporting Sustainability, High Density and Livable Design," is hosted by Portland Community College with generous support from the National Science Foundation. This year's SSI will: 1) Build awareness of the triple-bottom-line (TBL) impacts of the built environment; 2) Investigate the options for balancing land use needs for housing with needs for agriculture, landscapes and greenscapes, and natural resources; 3) Host a Design Charrette in which participants will design and envision places that support "conscious living"; and 4) Share examples of sustainability curriculum revisions from past SSI participants. For a list of Potential Speakers and a Draft Schedule, go to our [SSI Webpage](#).

Applications are accepted on a first come, first-served basis for 30 available slots. You must be a middle/high school or college instructor in WA, OR, ID or Northern CA to be considered for participation in the SSI. No prerequisites are required and CEUs/PDUs (professional development units) will be offered. Participants attend the Institute at no cost and receive all course materials, a \$200 stipend and meals. Travel costs are not included, but hotel lodging will be reserved and covered for out-of-town guests for the nights of Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18.

To apply, go to our website to complete our [online application](#). For more information, contact Heidi Sickert, Project Director, [heidi.sickert@pcc.edu](mailto:heidi.sickert@pcc.edu), [971.722.4465](tel:971.722.4465) or Denise Roy, Project Co-PI, [droy@pcc.edu](mailto:droy@pcc.edu), [971.722.4166](tel:971.722.4166).

### **Camp Snowball: Education for Sustainability**

July 13 – 17, 2015

Portland State University

What does "sustainability" mean to you? Share your ideas at Camp Snowball, a professional development opportunity for yourself and/or your team in tools and approaches that help you navigate the uncharted waters of change. Camp Snowball offers: great capacity-building disguised as interactive, fun, in-depth core modules; an opportunity to meet educators; a safe space for students and teachers to work together in creating schools that meet the current and future needs of all students; instructors with years of experience and a never-ending passion for improving student outcomes and education; a PSU graduate course to personalize your learning; a chance to share your own work with peers and thought partners; a team building experience for intact and newly formed teams; a learning community; and a practice field.

Bring a team and [register now](#).

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## **Resources**

### **Sierra Club: Scholarships for Environmental Organizing**

Deadline to apply is May 8.

Are you a college student interested in grassroots organizing and environmental or social justice? The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club is offering a \$500 scholarship to a college student of color and/or from a low-income background to attend a one-week "Sprog" training from July 12-19, 2015 near Los Angeles. "Sprog" is the Sierra Club's grassroots leadership training program run by young people for young people that teaches tools for environmental and social justice activism. (For more information on Sprog, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/youth/summer-sprog-training>)

After the training, the Sprog graduate will put his or her skills to work with our chapter leaders in the Portland area to help clean up the Willamette River and protect state forests, among other important conservation programs. The training and volunteer work may also qualify for course credit at your college or university.

[Apply now.](#)

### **AASHE Sustainability Awards**

*Applications accepted through June 11.*

Applications for the Tenth Annual Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) [Sustainability Awards](#) are now being accepted. There are three categories:

- 1) The [Campus Sustainability Case Study](#) honors campus projects at AASHE member institutions that promote sustainability in any sector including operations, education, administration and engagement.
- 2) The [Student Research on Campus Sustainability Award](#) seeks to honor students from AASHE member institutions who are advancing the higher education sustainability transformation with focused research of any length.
- 3) The [Student Sustainability Leadership Award](#) honors student teams from AASHE member institutions who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting campus sustainability efforts.

Award winners will receive one complimentary AASHE 2015 Conference & Expo pass, one invitation to a special reception during the 2015 conference, an opportunity to present your winning submission at the 2015 conference and during the 2016 AASHE Award Winners Webinar Series, and featured in [Sustainability: The Journal of Record](#).

### **United Nations Web TV**

The United Nations Web TV Channel is available 24 hours a day with selected live programming of U.N. meetings and events as well as with pre-recorded video features and documentaries on various global issues. Go to: [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)

### **Environmental Education Association of Oregon**

More jobs, internships, grants, and resources are available at [EEAO's website](#).

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Share your news with the GPSEN community via our [submission form](#)  
by the 25th 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, make the RCE Engagement Pledge,  
or find out more information about GPSEN.

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