



**GREATER PORTLAND  
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION NETWORK**

A Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

## Annual Report 2016-2017

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 on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE) by United Nations University, in 2013, 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.

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 accomplished a lot this year!

If you are interested in helping address regional challenges, achieve sustainability goals, and get involved in local and international initiatives, join us! You can learn more at: [gpsen.org](http://gpsen.org).

*This year's accomplishments include:*

1) Governance development:

- Engagement of Board and committees in developing annual goals, objectives, and targets
- Management of non-profit status
- Grant-writing through our Development Committee, with intern and Fellows
- Renewal process developed for partner fees collected via our website
- Selection and orientation of new Board Members

2) Innovative cross-sector partnerships and projects that support transformative education and research:

- Think Tank gatherings
- Expansion of Fellows Program through Think Tank – we currently have four Fellows
- 4<sup>th</sup> year participating in NWEI's EcoChallenge
- AASHE webinar on SDGs
- Sustainability Symposium, highlighting regional research and innovative projects
- Earth Week events at regional colleges and universities: speakers, tours, and films
- Development of Hope and Resilience and Facing Climate Change training workshops, funded by PCC
- College Student Network updated and Leadership Fellow hired at PSU

- Co-hosted Investments for Developing Communities Population Forum
  - Kim Smith serves on AASHE's Board of Directors and Heather Spalding sits on AASHE's Advisory Council
  - Collaboration with partners on events, including Port of Portland, World Affairs Council, ISSP, UNA Portland, Hosting International, etc.
- 3) Media and Outreach:
- GPSEN website created and managed by a PCC computer science student intern
  - Management of MailChimp listserv
  - Bi-weekly newsletter, edited by a communications intern
  - Resources and events shared on GPSEN's website and Facebook page and via Twitter
  - Outreach committee created marketing materials
  - Meetings held with potential partners
  - Interview on KPSU's Shades of Green Podcast
- 4) Grant funding development:
- Multiple letters of inquiry submitted
  - Hope and Resilience and Facing Climate Change workshops funded by PCC's Green Initiative Fund
  - GPSEN Fellow research on watershed management, funded by Clackamas County
- 5) Professional development opportunities and summits for ESD students, educators, and providers:
- GPSEN Internships and Fellowships
  - GoGreen Business Conference
  - Workshops and presentations on ESD and campus sustainability at the AASHE conference, in Baltimore
  - Washington Higher Education Sustainability Conference
  - Globally Sustainable Self Conference (book in progress, with Oxford University Press)
  - Hope and Resilience and Facing Climate Change workshops for college network and community members
  - Regional Faculty Sustainability Training
- 6) Events and opportunities for networking, idea-sharing, and policy discussions:
- Sustainability Social, with custom ice cream created
  - UN Day, with UNA Portland, focused on refugees
  - Attendance by partners at the AASHE conference
  - Attendance by GPSEN leaders at RCE of the Americas meeting, in Curitiba, Brazil, and Global RCE Meeting, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
  - Sustainability Symposium, with networking reception and Sustainability Leadership awards
  - Presentations to regional leaders
  - Meetings with PCC's Sustainability Leadership Council and PSU's Institute for Sustainable Solutions
  - Poster presentations at PSU's Sustainability Celebration
  - Screening of "Gaining Ground"
  - College Network event at PSU on "Food for Earth"
  - World Environment Day, focused on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Hosting International and UNA Portland

*To learn more and get involved, go to our website: [gpsen.org](http://gpsen.org) or email: [contact@gpsen.org](mailto:contact@gpsen.org).*

**Educate ~ Empower ~ Engage**