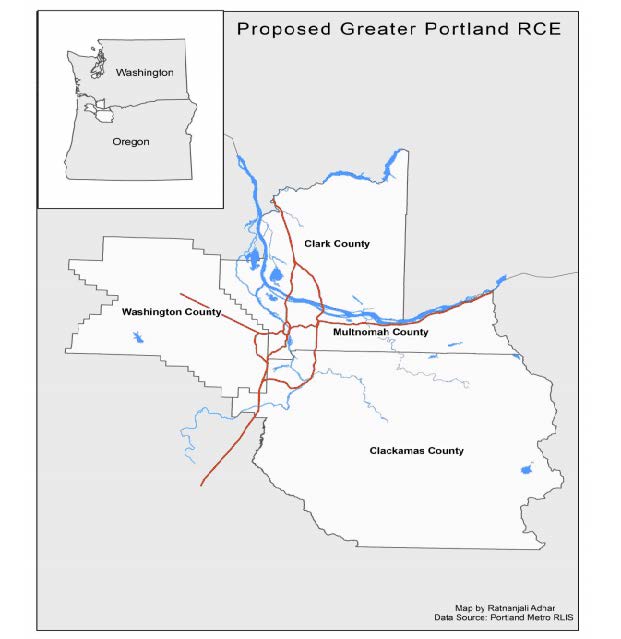
**RCE Greater Portland Annual Report to UNU-IAS-2014**

**1.Name of RCE:** RCE Greater Portland

**2.Continent:** North and Central America

**3.Country:** United States

**4.Upload Map:**



**5.Date of RCE Acknowledgement:** Monday, December 29, 2014

**6. Short description of RCE:**

RCE Greater Portland is a growing network of regional educators, students, non-profits, political and industry leaders, organizations, and community members collaborating to promote sustainability education in the Portland Metro region, including Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties, in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington.

**7. Vision of the RCE:**

RCE Greater Portland envisions a healthy, just, and thriving region where sustainability education is prioritized and integrated across sectors; and where everyone has opportunities to shape a more sustainable future.

**8. Added Value of RCE work :** Collective Innovation, ESD and Learning

**If you identify any other type of added value, please specify in the explanation field:**

We connect diverse organizations in a collaborative network that multiplies our collective capacity to educate for a more sustainable future. We are committed to creating a progressive, egalitarian governance model that reflects our values, supports collaboration among our partners, identifies committee structures and pathways that facilitate implementation of our objectives, distributes authority and decision-making across the network, and honors the volunteer efforts of our members.

**9. Organization hosting RCE Secretariat :** Other

**Other (please clarify):**

We are supported by multiple educational institutions and organizations, but none really host us. Our Coordinator is funded by Portland Community College.

**10. RCE Mailing Address for correspondence:**

Kim Smith Portland Community College Sylvania - SS 215 12000 SW 49th Ave Portland, OR 97219 USA

**11. RCE Website:** http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/regional-center-expertise/

**12. RCE Contact Details (Main RCE Contact, Secondary RCE Contact, General RCE Email)**

**Main RCE Contact:** Kim Smith

**Secondary RCE Contact:** Nancy Bond

**General RCE Email:** kdsmith@pcc.edu

**13. Leadership and Governance structure: Please describe the governance structure of your RCE and how leadership is distributed :**

We strive to organize our RCE as an inclusive network, inviting all stakeholders and members to find ways to engage, provide input on policies and projects, and develop innovative means and resources to support the sustainability education missions of their communities and organizations. We have a Coordinator, with part-time funding, a coordinating committee that meets monthly, 4 subcommittees (Governance, Programs and Events, Outreach and Communications, Research and Development), and working groups that work on tasks for each of the subcommittees. We implement action plans in as efficient and collaborative of ways as possible.**ore partners of your RCEs and their roles:**

**Organization:** Portland Community College

**Role:**Funding and Website host

**Main Contact:** Kim Smith

**Organization:**Portland Public Schools

**Role:**Youth Network

**Main Contact:**Nancy Bond

**Organization:**Portland State University

**Role:**Research and Social Sustainability

**Main Contact:**Judy Walton

**Organization:**Wisdom of the Elders

**Role:**Curriculum development

**Main Contact:**Rose High Bear **place? Please name practices and channels:**

**Channel/practice:**

We send a monthly newsletter to our listserv of members, which highlight news, RCE and partner events, ESD workshops, and funding and curriculum resources. We host quarterly stakeholder meetings, where we discuss policies and highlight partners. We host regular networking socials to allow members to meet each other. We also co-host events, which achieve shared ESD goals. We have an Engagement Pledge on our website, where partners can identify their goals and the resources they can contribute to the RCE.

**Target group/network:**

RCE Greater Portland (aka the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network [GPSEN]) is a growing network of regional educators, students, non-profits, political and industry leaders, organizations, and community members collaborating to promote sustainability education in the Portland Metro region, including Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties, in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington. We have close to 100 organizational partners and over 300 individual members.

**Reference/website:**

http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/regional-center-expertise/

**16. Areas of sustainability learning and change that your RCE addresses :**

Collective Innovation, ESD and Learning

**Others:**

**18. Please describe your main strategies for the RCE actions (Character count 300 words):**

Goal 1. Build a vibrant and diverse regional cross-sector network of individuals and organizations advancing sustainability education together

Objective A. Establish partnerships that facilitate inclusive and diverse collaborations across traditional and non-traditional lines Objective B. Convene regular events where everyone is welcome to discuss and share ideas related to ESD and social equity issues

Objective C. Share research and innovative practices in sustainability education to promote partnerships, learning, and advancements in ESD across the region

Objective D. Model sustainable, innovative, cooperative, and inclusive practices and processes across sectors and emulate our values within the RCE organization

Goal 2. Advance the development of lifelong sustainability learning opportunities in formal, non-formal, and informal contexts

Objective A. Develop and provide easy access to an array of ESD information and resources through our regional online center of ESD information

Objective B. Create and promote ESD programming and curriculum that meet the needs and skill sets of a wide audience

Objective C. Create and support opportunities for ESD capacity-building and workforce development

Objective D. Identify and secure funding sources to support resource development and staff capacity to achieve the mission of the RCE

Goal 3. Increase public awareness about regional sustainability issues and the role of ESD in shaping a healthy, just, and thriving future

Objective A. Develop and implement outreach strategies that raise public awareness and increase involvement in ESD

Objective B. Create opportunities for public dialogue on ESD policies and issues

Goal 4. Support capacity building to develop Citizen Leaders who will steward our region for generations to come.

Objective A. Develop leadership opportunities

Objective B. Create and promote ESD service-learning projects

**19. Please describe your RCE’s main results and achievements over the course of this year (character count 500 words):**

1) Governance development: Engagement of Coordinating Committee, subcommittees, and working groups to develop bylaws, objectives and annual plan, and grant applications

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

a) Coalition for a Livable Future's Regional Equity Stories Exhibit

b) Center for Civic Participation's Social Equity and Justice Forum

c) Co-sponsored Earth Week events at Portland Community College: Wisdom of the Elders Film Release; GPSEN ESD presentation; Sacred Art Studio's Interactive Art Mandala

3) GPSEN website, listservs, and newsletter created, with monthly updates, Logo development (with support from PCC graphic design students and an artist), a new GIS map of partners (thanks to a PCC student intern), and FAQs.

4) Grant funding received to create an ESD resource catalogue, with curricula, research, literature, professional development providers, and program evaluation tools

5) Professional development opportunities and summits for ESD students, educators, and providers:

a) Attendance at the 8th Global RCE Conference, in Nairobi

b) Coalition for a Livable Future's Regional Equity Atlas training

c) PSU's Social Sustainability Colloquia: GPSEN presentation and session on Hands On Greater Portland

d) High school student presenters with the International Virtual Youth Conference

e) Planning for October AASHE conference

6) Events and opportunities for networking, idea-sharing, and policy discussions:

a) Quarterly stakeholder meetings

b) 6 networking socials

c) Meetings with politicians

d) Attendance at partner fundraisers

e) Collaboration with US Partnership for ESD

f) Attendance by Kim Smith and sustainability outreach consultant, Jamie Stamberger, at the RCEs of the America's meeting in Mexico, in July 2014.

7) Community projects and service-learning: Participation of 12 students and community members in Hands on Greater Portland's E4 Sustainability TeamWorks service team, with 6 different educational and service events.

8) Public awareness and outreach campaigns:

a) Press releases

b) Outreach meetings and RCE presentations with partners

c) RCE Launch Celebration

d) RCE Coordinator Kim Smith's summer tour of RCEs in Europe and meetings with UNESCO and ESD consultants

**20. How have the RCE and its projects benefited from being linked to UNU and RCE Global Service Centre? What could be improved:**

The main benefit is having the structure and impetus to organize as a multi-sector network. It has been very helpful to have Lyle Benko, of RCE Saskatchewan, serve as our mentor. We also have enjoyed learning about other RCEs' best practices and projects, with inspiration for how to design our own RCE.

**GPSEN Subcommittee Progress and Projects 2013-2014**

**Governance**

Monthly coordinating committee meetings

Subcommittee and working group meetings, as needed

5 Stakeholder Meetings

Goals, objectives, and annual plan

Draft of bylaws in process

Policies: Guiding Principles for Meetings; Modified Consensus Decision-Making Process; Political Advocacy Policy

Grant applications and Letters of Support

Research on global RCE structures, funding, and membership models

Submitted application to state for non-profit status

**Outreach & Communications**

Cross-sector partnership development

GPSEN Presentations

New logo

GIS Partner Map 2.0 on Website

Draft Social Media Policy

***Social Media***

Core to our Outreach and Communications committee was the development of initiatives and tools to facilitate outreach to the community. With such a large number of participants (100+ organizational partners and close to 300 members on our listserv), we struggle with getting information out to everyone for promotion of events and meetings, as well as resources available in our community. During this year, the following tools have been created:

1) Website: [www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/regional-center-expertise](http://www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/regional-center-expertise)

2) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RCE.GreaterPortland](http://www.facebook.com/RCE.GreaterPortland)

3) Twitter: @GPSENews

4) Listservs: [www.lists.pdx.edu/lists/listinfo/un-rce-esd](http://www.lists.pdx.edu/lists/listinfo/un-rce-esd)

5) Monthly Newsletter sent to listservs, via pdx.edu account and via MailChimp

We will always strive to improve our outreach efforts and will need to update these sites and newsletters throughout our existence.

***Networking Socials***

We hosted 6 networking socials over the year, highlighting opportunities for people to meet partners, discuss initiatives, and enjoy some good cheer at local, sustainable businesses. It is a challenge to meet people across sectors, so it is important to facilitate opportunities for socializing. We rotated the events between different restaurants throughout the region. Attendance varied between 12 and 25 participants. People have shared that they like the events, so we will offer more this coming year.

**Research & Development**

PSU's Social Sustainability Colloquium

Network Analysis research

Sustainability Curriculum sharing

***Nature in Neighborhoods:Conservation Education Grant***

In partnership with EEAO and the Intertwine, RCE Greater Portland is proud to have received a $100,000 grant to develop a database of all of the sustainability education providers in our region. Disparate lists exist throughout different groups, but no comprehensive list exists. We plan to make this a searchable database, with a clearinghouse of curriculum, speakers, research opportunities, grants, and internships. Please see the attached for the details and budget.

**Projects & Events**

***RCE Greater Portland/GPSEN Launch Party***

***June 6, 2014***

In celebration of our acceptance as an RCE and the development of our growing network, we hosted a large Launch celebration, attended by close to 200 people. Hosted at the World Forestry Center and funded by core sponsors and ticket sales, we had resource tables, slide show, speakers, music, art, poetry, a Native American ceremony, a children's room, and a lovely meal. We were particularly honored to have our RCE mentor, Lyle Benko, from RCE Saskatchewan, and representatives from RCE British Columbia join us.

***Center for Civic Participation's Social Equity and Justice Forum***

***May 7, 2014***

We hosted this facilitated community dialogue to answer core social and economic sustainability questions. What do terms like "sustainability," "development," "equity," and "social justice” mean? How can we help create a healthy, just, and thriving region?

• address issues of justice and equity

• support sustainability education

• focus on social sustainability

• identify shared objectives

• foster collaborative partnerships

• make a difference

Close to 40 people attended this forum and engaged in discussion. The format was too ambitious for the time, so we did not achieve all of our goals, but it was a good start to this important dialogue. It also provided an opportunity to work with some core social sustainability groups in our region.

***International Virtual Youth Conference***

***May 2, 2014***

Nine students from Rex Putnam and Catlin Gable schools made RCE Greater Portland proud with their excellent professional, thoughtful and thorough presentation on the topic of food security in our region. They joined presenting teams from Grand Rapids, MI; Medellin, Colombia; Lima, Peru; and Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. In attendance were representatives from UN-IAS, Germany, Bangladesh, and Brazil. The presentations were informative, the questions were rich and we all learned a lot about local food issues in different countries. It’s a brilliant forum and could only be improved by better technology. The format is good: presentations followed by questions from each team. Jocelyn McIntire from Rex Putnam was our calm and gracious hostess and tireless IT wizard. George Zaninovich from Catlin Gable engaged the students with smart questions and comic relief. Both had the complete respect of their students, and clearly, it was mutual. When we debriefed with the students and asked if we should participate next year, they enthusiastically said “yes!” and then shared what they liked/learned from this experience, as well as offering great suggestions for improving the process next year.

Nancy Bond shares: Portland’s participation into the Virtual Youth Conference was a tremendous success! This event exceeded expectations on all levels. It sets the bar high for next year and it thrills me that the students were so engaged with their classmates and their new friends from across town.

***Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Finding Solutions through Sustainable Development***

***April 24, 2014***

Can you envision Portland as a healthy, just, and thriving region where sustainability education is prioritized and everyone has opportunities to shape a more sustainable future? GPSEN Coordinator and PCC sociology professor Dr. Kim Smith helped the audience learn about international and regional sustainable development goals and how the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN) is building opportunities to participate in E4 solutions, focused on the environment, education, economy, and equity.

Thursday, April 24, 2014 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Everything went well, with 45 attendees and smooth technology. Students, staff, and community members engaged in discussion after the presentation. This was also part of the education for the Hands on Greater Portland E4 Teamworks Team.

***Amy Livingstone's Sacred Art Mandala***

***April 22, 2014***

As a part of Earth Day, we hosted artist Amy Livingstone at Portland Community College. Through her art displays, posters about endangered species, a lecture and film, and her sacred art mandala, she educated our students and staff about the fate of endangered species and their habitats and invited all to share blessings for the Earth. It was very moving to see participants slowly create designs in colored sand, flower petals, and seeds. At the end, she did a final ceremony and prayer and brushed the mandala into a bowl, which we gave to our organic gardening student club, who placed the blessed sand mixture into their plantings.

It was a lovely event and well-received. Our PCC media team filmed the exhibit and interview with Amy. It well worth watching: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qusdMSZXls>

***Wisdom of the Elders Film Release***

***April 17, 2014***

Wisdom of the Elders is a non-profit committed to preserving and sharing traditional knowledge. Screenings included two films about the Alaska Native response to climate issues and the importance of Native communities’ unique earth-based cultures. The films were followed by a dialogue with local leaders, with time for audience questions and feedback, giving the community a voice in important local climate issues we will be facing in the years ahead.

We hosted films on two PCC campuses, with about 25 attending at PCC Cascade and over 70 people at PCC Sylvania. Students, faculty, staff, and community members attended.

***E4 Sustainability TeamWorks Team (Submitted for International RCE Award)***

***April 10-May 1, 2014***

Eight students from Portland Community College (PCC) and four community members joined a Hands On Greater Portland TeamWorks team, in April and May, 2014, to explore education for sustainable development. They participated in a series of lectures, readings, and service projects focused on the 4 “Es” of sustainability: Education; Environment; Economy; and Equity.

GOALS

• Explore local E4 sustainability challenges

• Identify existing sustainability education initiatives

• Empower participants to recognize the contributions they can make in their communities

• Engage participants in meaningful service projects

• Foster citizenship and social sustainability through community-based learning

• Facilitate reflection on the quality and impact of their service.

The TeamWorks model was developed by Hands On Greater Portland in order to deepen the engagement of community member in service projects, so that participants could learn the structural and cultural foundations of why they should address social, economic, and environmental issues and how they can make a difference. RCE Greater Portland Coordinator and Sociology Professor, Kim Smith, served as the Team Leader and organized the TeamWorks’ learning objectives. Hands On Greater Portland’s TeamWorks Coordinator, Melia Tichenor, scheduled all of the service projects with established partners, based on the E4 themes, including serving meals to the hungry at Potluck in the Park, a film release for Wisdom of the Elders, a lecture on sustainable development for Earth Day, beautifying an elementary school, and reclaiming building materials at the Rebuilding Center. Reflection exercises, evaluation forms, and reflection papers were embedded into the service projects, following each session, in order to help participants recognize the benefits of their actions, as well as ways that the projects could be improved.

It was a great success! The team filled up quickly and received positive feedback, with the following results:

• 11 participants completed the TeamWorks team

• Over 575 total community members engaged over all in the events

• 152 total hours of volunteer time were contributed by TeamWorks participants

• 7 local sustainability organizations benefitted from service projects

• Over 600 meals were served to those in need in Portland, at Potluck in the Park

• 75 students and community members screened the Wisdom of the Elders films and participated in group discussions about Native cultures and climate change

• 9 TeamWorks participants and over 400 Comcast employees engaged in the Centennial Beautification Project. 55 trees were planted, 2 tons of mulch was spread, and 7 school rooms and hallways were scrubbed and painted at a local elementary school

• Over 100 pieces of recycled lumber were de-nailed and made ready for resale

• Two students have joined additional TeamWorks teams and one has become a Team Leader.

***Coalition for a Livable Future's Regional Equity Stories Exhibit***

***January 30, 2014***

Stories are powerful. They connect us to other people and help us understand their experiences. That’s why the Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) launched the Equity Stories Project. People from a dozen diverse community organizations throughout the region participated in the project. The stories are powerful reminders of the disparities people experience every day. But they also remind us of the richness, diversity, and resilience of the communities across our region. PCC Sylvania’s Multicultural Center, Library, and Social Science Division were proud to host this powerful photo exhibit. We invited everyone to join us for the opening reception, to enjoy speakers, a short film, refreshments, and a tour of the exhibit. The Equity Stories Project photo exhibit was on display at the PCC Sylvania Library from January 30 to February 28.

Great success! We hosted an opening reception, with community members and college faculty, staff, and students attending. While we would have liked to have had more people attend, it was very well-received. The exhibit was available in the library for a month, with interactive posters. Library staff said that students stopped all of the time to look at the pictures and maps and add ideas to the posters. The exhibit even drew the attention of Al-Jazeera, with the artist being interviewed.

***Coalition for a Livable Future's Regional Equity Atlas Mapping Equity in Portland Training***

***December 6, 2013***

PCC Sylvania’s Social Sciences Division hosted a presentation by the Coalition for a Livable Future on their newly released Regional Equity Atlas 2.0. Based on current, regional data, the Regional Equity Atlas project uses maps, policy analysis, community based research, and other tools to assess how well different populations across the four-county Portland-Vancouver metro region can access resources necessary for meeting their basic needs and advancing their health and well-being. The presentation provided an overview of the Equity Atlas project, a summary of key maps and findings, and an advanced demonstration of how to use the online mapping tool. All PCC staff and students and community members were welcome. For more information on the Equity Atlas project, please visit [www.equityatlas.org](http://www.equityatlas.org).

A fascinating presentation, with a skilled presenter, but it was poorly attended, due to bad weather. The 7 people who attended said that they gained a lot though.