

**December 2014 Newsletter**

*GPSEN connects diverse organizations in a collaborative network that multiplies  
our region's collective capacity to educate for a more sustainable future.*

**GPSEN News**

Happy holidays, everyone!  We hope that your Thanksgiving was beautiful.  
  
As we enter the last month of 2014, we are reflecting on our many efforts over the year.  Not only has GPSEN been accepted as a Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), by the United Nations University, but we have also been recognized as having an award-winning flagship program for civic engagement! We have joined in the international [celebration of RCEs](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=22c71a355a&e=60104cf987), the [Decade on ESD](http://pcc.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=c7f51372ec&e=60104cf987) (2005-2014), and the [UNESCO World Conference on ESD](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=6e6fe831c3&e=60104cf987) in Japan and are now invited to move forward in helping implement UNESCO's new [Global Action Programme](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=c38c982dba&e=60104cf987) (GAP) on ESD.  
  
This is an exciting time for GPSEN and members across the greater Portland region. The sustainability work of our partners epitomize the UNU's goals of multi-sector collaboration and it is time to celebrate!   
  
We will be exploring the highlights of the decade, core lessons from the UNESCO conferences in Japan this past month, and the priority action areas in the GAP at this quarter's GPSEN Stakeholder Meeting. Please join us as we plan our pathways together toward a more sustainable future.  See the details below to make sure you can participate and have your voice heard.

*If you have events, workshops, conferences, and/or resources  
that you would like included in the GPSEN newsletter, submit your details  
via our*[*submission form*](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=9a55fc1c80&e=60104cf987)*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)*.*

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**GPSEN Events**

**Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting**  
Thursday, December 11, 2014  
10:00 am- 12:00 pm  
PCC Climb Center, Rms 302-303  
1626 SE Water Ave, Portland, OR  
  
The greater Portland region has definitely made it on the map!  Come learn about how to plug into UNESCO's Global Action Programme and highlight priority action areas for our region and beyond. Let’s catch up and see what ideas are percolating for fall and beyond.  Join us afterwards for some celebratory Hot Lips pizza.

**Community Events**

**VOIS Green Drinks**  
Tuesday, December 2  
6-8 p.m.  
Velo Cult Bike Shop  
1969 NE 42nd Ave, Portland, OR 97213  
  
While bicycling might not be on the top of your mind in December, we've decided to have a bike theme for our December (12/2) Green Drinks gathering. We will be meeting at the [Velo Cult Bike Shop](http://pcc.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=10f36f85e9&e=60104cf987), home to some awesome bikes and 16 beers that are always on tap. We will also have Carl Larson from the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) talk about their "Make Big Streets Safe" campaign.  
  
Beer will be sponsored; we're still planning for drink options and light refreshments.  
$5 suggested donation.  
Please email us if you plan on attending: [rsvp@pdxgreendrinks.org](mailto:rsvp@pdxgreendrinks.org).

**VOIS Westside Green Drinks**  
Tuesday, December 11  
6-8 p.m.  
Golden Valley Brew Pub  
1520 NW Bethany Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97006  
  
West Side Transportation Alliance Rae-Leigh will talk about local options to get outdoors without the use of a car. She will be talking about the latest developments in West Side transportation initiatives. We're also thrilled to have Jesse Shue, Brewmaster at Golden Valley speak about their latest release for the holidays and what sets Golden Valley apart in the local community.  
  
$5 suggested donation. Please email us if you plan on attending: [rsvp@pdxgreendrinks.org](mailto:rsvp@pdxgreendrinks.org).

**Workshops & Conferences**

**City Repair's 2015 Village Building Convergence Placemaking Materials**  
  
It's time to start planning your Village Building Convergence (VBC) placemaking projects. From street murals and cob benches to community gardens, VBC projects make neighborhoods, schools, and businesses gathering places. Check out City Repairs' handy [VBC Toolkit](http://pcc.us8.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=285e5827dc&e=60104cf987), which includes information about City Repair, the VBC, permaculture, plast VBC design ideas, adn a VBC 15 Placemaking Program overview.  
  
Applications are due Thursday, January 22, 2015.

**Free LEED® Green Associate Exam Prep**  
  
This [Free LEED Exam Prep course](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=fda58ab1f1&e=60104cf987) will educate you on core green building concepts and the LEED rating system. The comprehensive program will prepare you with the strategies and skills that you need to pass the LEED Green Associate exam. Every individual seeking a LEED credential must start with the Green Associate exam.  
  
Green CE, Inc., is an online resource for design professionals who want to learn about green building, sustainability, conservation, and how to create a healthy environment. Our mission is to educate design professionals about environmental benefits, health benefits, and economic benefits when designing a building.

**Resources**

**Create Plenty Blog Series**  
Create Plenty mobilizes people toward a culture of resourcefulness and intentional daily living, creating waste-free, local alternatives that are practical and accessible by all. Enjoy this thought-provoking [blog series](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=f60ccba904&e=60104cf987), following the progress of the Grant High School Environmental Club, with articles and activities that support leadership development and sustainability education.   
  
  
**Funding:  East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Partners in Conservation (PIC) Grants**  
*Applications are due by December 15*  
  
Conservation of our District’s natural resources can be complex. Sometimes the most effective way to advance our goals is not to do the work ourselves, but rather to help support others in doing the work. We developed our Grants and Cost Share Programs as a way to provide our partners with the financial and technical resources to tackle diverse conservation projects and conservation education within the District.  
  
2015 PIC Grant application materials are now available! Find all of the application materials on our [application page](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=24803857fe&e=60104cf987).

**Funding:  NFWF’s Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists Request for Proposals**  
*Accepting proposals through December 16, 2014.*  
   
This funding opportunity is led by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is supported by the USFS, BLM, BOR and private sponsors. The effort is aligned with the [21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC)](http://pcc.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=13d37f177c&e=60104cf987) and provides nearly $2,000,000 in funding to support innovative partnerships that provide meaningful conservation employment for young people. In 2015, the Forest Service has committed $405,000 to support projects that benefit Forest Service lands and program. These federal funds must be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal contributions.  
   
Visit the [NFWF NextGen website](http://pcc.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=84844fe069&e=60104cf987)  to see if you might have opportunities that align with this program. Eligibility – FS units cannot directly submit proposals, but partners must work closely with FS units in the development of proposals. 21CSC partner organizations will be given priority for FS funding.  
Funding - $50,000 limit on proposals; although projects that partner across agencies may be larger. Cross-agency partners are strongly encouraged!  All federal funds must be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal contributions.  
  
Process – Proposals are developed and submitted online through the [NextGen website](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=237729e122&e=60104cf987). Project selections are anticipated in early Spring 2015.    
  
  
**Funding: Nature in Neighborhood Conservation Education Grants**  
*Applications due Tuesday, January 13, 2015.*  
  
Do you have an idea to connect people with nature? Teach people about water quality, fish and wildlife habitat or to support healthier communities? A conservation education grant from Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods program could help your program grow.  
   
Small grants up to $25,000 and large grants up to $100,000 are available for projects that connect neighborhoods with nature. A wide variety of projects can fit the bill, such as nature education for school-aged children, job training or internships for nature-based careers, or building capacity for groups to connect their communities to nearby natural areas. Please fill out a [simple pre-application](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=caafa2c55f&e=60104cf987) **by Jan. 13, 2015**at [www.oregonmetro.gov/grants](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=6ced20f0c8&e=60104cf987).  
   
Want to see examples of successful applicants? Want to be inspired? We’ve featured a few of our fantastic 2014 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education grantees in these short films [here](http://pcc.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=c81ca91012&e=60104cf987): Nadaka Nature Park and Centro Cultural.  For examples of successful applications, we’ve posted a few of our favorites [here](http://pcc.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=2fd814c6c1&e=60104cf987): Oakquest, Slough School, and Siskiyou Field Lab.

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*Share your news with the GPSEN community via our*[*submission form*](http://pcc.us8.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=7db1c7ccc4&e=60104cf987) *by the 25th of the month for the following month's newsletter.  
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Check out our [website](http://pcc.us8.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=5e8ea1a005b67de6ae0ac0147&id=7191c23aa1&e=60104cf987) to become a member, make the RCE Engagement Pledge, or find out more information about GPSEN.

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