



Citizen Climate Action Heats Up

As the current impact and future consequences of climate change are felt and understood more deeply, the cauldron of climate activism is heating up, fueled by harsh criticism of the role of capitalism in degrading Earth's atmosphere. This citizen unrest will likely increase as we approach the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference beginning November of 2015 in Paris. Although the stated goal of the conference is to reach a legally binding and universal agreement to reduce annual CO₂ emissions, prior efforts to reach effective international agreements have failed.

On September 21, an estimated crowd of 400,000 gathered on the streets of New York City for the largest People's Climate March in history. In Portland that day, 350PDX organized a satellite march—one of about 2,500 worldwide—which drew a crowd of around 5,000 to the Portland Park Blocks.

In October, Naomi Klein's long-anticipated new book, *This Changes Everything—Capitalism vs. The Climate*, was released and immediately climbed into the *New York Times*' top-ten list. Its key point is that global capital markets, driven by the search for the highest total return at any cost, are structurally incapable of taking consequences of climate change into account.

Within this milieu of uncertainty about the future based on climate change, one thing is clear: Our consumer culture must change, and grassroots citizen Earth leadership has a pivotal role to play. To be sure, public policy must change, and technological advances are essential. But they do not change culture; people do. Moreover, citizen Earth leadership from below creates pressure and provides cover for decision makers in the public and private sectors.

“The future is literally in our hands to mold as we like. But we cannot wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow is now.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

At the Center for Earth Leadership, we have trained over 1,000 people to be agents of change to “green” a circle of influence. Collectively, their work continues to transform the culture of the greater Portland metropolitan area. And it is totally aligned with the twin beacons for climate change mitigation efforts: (1) reduce per capita hydrocarbon energy and resources required to support the population and (2) foster deep respect for the natural world.

In this annual report, we highlight the Center's Eco-School Networks Program, which we have introduced in the Portland, Beaverton, Corvallis, Salem, and Eugene school districts. Trained parent-volunteers, focused on the twin beacons, work to reduce energy and resources in school operations. At the same time, they amplify each child's innate sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world, and the children learn at school what it means to a responsible member of the human community.



Kids march and stroll at the Portland climate rally.

Climate Agents of Change in Schools

Although climate change calls for consumer culture to be transformed in a fundamental way, by its nature cultural change is incremental. Through our highlighted Eco-School Networks Program, we seek to incrementally “green” the culture in elementary schools—often the recognized hub for the surrounding neighborhood. The ripple effect of change at school is pronounced, impacting the children, teachers, administrative staff, parents, and, in many cases, neighbors.

As an outreach strategy, we have formed Eco-School Networks in five Willamette Valley communities—Portland, Beaverton, Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene—with assistance from local partners. They are launched when a group of parents enrolls in our training, “How to Be an Agent of Change in Your School.” Through efforts at their respective schools, the trained parents are truly climate agents of change.

Portland Eco-School Network

In the Portland Eco-School Network, the flagship network, parents were appalled by all the cafeteria food waste going to the landfill where it creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. They helped persuade the school district to initiate a food scrap collection program and taught the students to separate their lunch waste into recyclable, compostable, and landfill categories. For example, at Duniway Elementary, **Dana Visse** and **Nicole Murray** spent time in the cafeteria every day monitoring the separation system until they



Eco-School Networks unite at annual fall leadership retreat.

enlisted other parent volunteers to help them. Ten Network elementary schools are now participating in Portland Public Schools’ food collection program, which can reduce cafeteria waste by 25 to 50%.

Portland Eco-School Network parents are also interested in minimizing reliance on the industrial

agricultural system, which is energy, pesticide, and water intensive. At least 12 Network schools have vegetable gardens. Generally they are maintained by a garden committee of parent volunteers. However, the International School benefits from the efforts of parent-alum **Priscilla Lane** who installed an irrigation system in the school garden as her Agent of Change project. Today, she teaches classes for each grade level on building healthy soils, crop rotation, cover cropping, organic practices, composting, and seed saving, using the garden as a laboratory. She works with the teachers to integrate these experiences into their curriculum and periodically organizes parent work parties. She reports that more and more of the children are gardening at home.

In an attempt to eliminate the proliferation of disposable water bottles, some schools are establishing durable water-bottle refilling stations. At Duniway, **Jenny Dempsey Stein** took charge of a fundraiser to replace the old school water fountains with double-duty fountains for drinking and for filling bottles. She did this by selling engraved bricks that were used to replace the main walkway to the school.

Beaverton Eco-School Network

In the Beaverton Eco-School Network, milk cartons have been a hot topic. Why cut trees to create packaging for a single use? At Ridgewood, **Kristin Wesel** is known as the Milk Carton Lady. She and **Katie Reed** monitor a noontime regimen: After lunch, each child pours out any leftover milk and tosses the carton into a tub. Students take turns rinsing the cartons and placing them upside down on a rack to drip dry. According to Kristin, the



New H₂O fill station at Duniway School reduces disposables.

students “walk away with a smile on their face knowing that their recycling is an important job in our world...over the year I am sure we have had over 250 students participate at least once.”

Corvallis Eco-School Network

Our first distant Eco-School Network, launched in the fall of 2013 with a training held at the **Avery Nature Center**, has quickly gained a mid-Willamette Valley reputation for getting things done. **Margit Foss** helped establish a PTA-initiated school garden at Garfield Elementary. The garden was built by volunteers and funded with over \$12,000 in grants and donations. During multiple work parties, the volunteers built 14 raised beds and covered the grass and weeds between beds with cardboard and mulch. Not only does the garden constellation include an irrigation system, but also a hand-and-produce washing station for young farmers! To assure continual maintenance and use, Margit’s garden committee recruited a local Master Gardener to manage the garden and an educator to assist teachers who wish to develop garden-related curriculum.



Students shovel mulch for the Garfield garden.

For her Agent of Change project, **Kendra Callahan** planned a new Junior Naturalist Program at Ashbrook Independent School. During school hours, K-5 students explore nature areas right outside the classrooms. Sessions are led by educators from Avery Nature Center with help from a few parent volunteers. Lessons, which satisfy Oregon science curriculum standards, include the following:

- Identifying different types of insects, spiders, and crustaceans;
- Observing the cycle of decomposition in soil;
- Exploring the nearby wetland;

- Hunting for local mammal tracks and scat;
- Identifying birds by sight and sound; and
- Handling with care snakes, turtles, frogs, and other reptiles and amphibians.

Salem Eco-School Network

Last spring, we partnered with **Straub Environmental Center** to launch the Salem Eco-School Network with our training for parents from seven schools. **Nichole Rose**, Straub’s Program Coordinator, is also the parent of a fourth grader attending Grant School. Thus, she served the dual role of site host and participant. Although the Salem Network just began its first school year of operations this fall, two members, **Nelson Kline** and **Mark Babson**, attended our annual overnight Network retreat in October at Alton Collins Retreat Center.

Eugene Eco-School Network

In Eugene this fall, we worked with our local partner, **Partners for Sustainable Schools (PSS)**, to launch the Eugene Network with an initial group of parents from eleven schools.

Even before the Eugene leadership training began, the synergy between partners was apparent. Using resources developed by **Celeste Lewis**, a Portland Network parent, PSS organized a Halloween Costume and Decoration Swap in five elementary schools.

Reflecting on our growing Eco-School Networks Program, Co-Founder Dick Roy observed, “For children being raised at this time of climate-change uncertainty, the work of Network parents creates immediate, positive experiences for kids that are aligned with a sustainable future. This focus on the positive is very uplifting for all involved.”



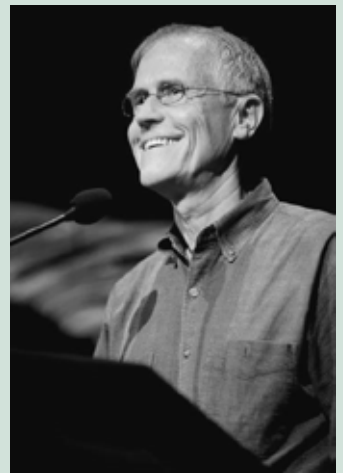
A Halloween werewolf in Eugene at Holt Elementary School.

Thank You, Members & Donors!

In his 2009 commencement address at the University of Portland, Paul Hawken summed up the world we live in with the following passage, relayed electronically around the world:

When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth..., and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse.

This year the Center staff has provided ongoing training, support, and inspiration for legions of citizens engaged in purposeful work to restore the earth through their efforts in neighborhoods, schools, centers of faith, and communities. Paul Hawken would be pleased to hear our pulse is off the charts. Thank you to our members and donors!



Paul Hawken delivers 2009 University of Portland speech.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Gray Family Foundation
The Jackson Foundation
Juan Young Trust

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

Gifts of \$2,500 or more

Cherida Collins Smith
Truman Collins
Ward Greene* and Diane Ponti
Estate of Olga Hawley
Oregon Deep Ecology Fund
Milo* and Beverly Ormseth
Portfolio 21 Investments, Inc.
Jeanne and Dick* Roy

CENTER CIRCLE

Gifts from \$1,000-\$2,499

John Bennett*
Dunn Carney Allen Higgins & Tongue LLP*
J. Chris Edwardsen*
Hitchcock-Graham Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
James* and Rhonda* Kennedy
Joel* and Karan Kuntz

Christopher and Susan Leupold
Norbert and Christine Leupold

PATRONS

Gifts from \$500-\$999

Bala Cadambi
Kristin Collins
The Gun and Tom Denhart Family Fund
Frederick and Connie Erickson Jr.
Kell, Alterman & Runstein, LLP*
Gregory Macpherson*
Jon Masterson
Gil Parker* and Heather Guthrie
Norma Paulus*
Paul and Joyce Schwer
Susie Stragnell

SPONSORS

Gifts from \$250-\$499

Joel Ario and Diana Myrwang
Ater Wynne, LLP*
Michael and Sharon Boreing
Donald* and Cindy Burns
Jonathan Carder and Monique Baillargeon
David Carter
Amy Culp
John and Jane Emrick
Brent Foster*

Bob and Joyce Foster
Morris Galen*
William* and Elaine* Hallmark
William and Barbara Harris
Steve and Felicia Holgate
Gerald and Beth Hulsman
William* and Barbara Hutchison Jr.
Robert James Stanley Martinson*
Katherine McDowell* and Kenneth Lerner*
Jack* and Carolyn McMurchie
Neil Kelly
Sharon Noell
Robyn Ridler Aoyagi*
Jeff Rogers*
Jennifer Sandoval*
Tonkon Torp LLP*
Margaret Vining*
Barry Woods*
Scott* and Aloha Wyse

SUSTAINERS

Gifts from \$100-\$249

Bruce and Edith Anderson
Douglas Beckman and Joanna Ceciliani
Ginny Benware
Tricia Bergman
Almarina Bianchi

Suzanne Bonamico
Ernest Bonyhadi
Marney Bruce
Terry Collins
Theresa Cross and Tommy Butler
Dennis and Kim Cusack
Paul Dagle
Matt Dinsmore
Emma Dugan
Jonathan Dunn
Barnes and Molly Ellis
Edward and Marilyn Epstein
David Forman
James and Mary Foster
Carolyn Gassaway
Adrienne Glenn
Ozzie Gonzalez
Elizabeth Goodman
Bill Gross
Michael and Melissa Haglund
Michael Hall
Susan Hansen
Tracey Henkels
Preston Hiefield
Robert Huntington
Jill Inahara
Ana Inclan
Martin Jones and Gayle Landt
Joshua Kadish
Tim Kutscha
Jennifer Lockwood
Morgan Lutz
Phillip Margolin

*Lawyers' Circle Members

Larry McAllister
William McAllister
Martha McCall
Kelly Merrick
Philip Moran
Mary Lynn O'Brien
Tamara Olcott and
Anne Muller
Katherine O'Neil
Patty Page
Michael Ponder
Kelly Reece
George and Claire Rives
Rose City Mortgage
Lawrence and Lucille
Salmony
Audrey Schaab
Gary and Barbara
Scharff
Peter and Penny
Serrurier
Richard Sessions
Ann Shannon
David Shaw
Jennifer Sims
Anthony Stark
Elizabeth and Jason
Start
Deborah Stewart
Paul Sunderland
David and Rosemarie
Sweet
Scott Thayer
Valerie Tomasi
Jennifer Troobnick
Michael Wade
Jodi Walters
Elisa Wells
Michele Whaley
Chet and Pat Wolter

MEMBERS

Gifts up to \$99

Ernest Arbuckle
Sarah Axness
Ann Bakkensen
Kathleen Barnebey
Hilary Barrett
Kelcey Beardsley
Marnie Bennett
Paul Benninghoff
Meg Bowman
Clark and Kacia
Brockman

Sarah Brody Webb
Kersten Broms
Chris Brown
Neil Bryant
Ryan Cain
Livia Castrucci
Amy Chamberlain
Megan Chandler
Patricia Chandler
Sherry Chilcutt
Francine Chinitz and
Rich Schwartz
Teri Ciacchi
Sarah Cleveland
Jeri Corbett
Steve Couche
Daniel and Michelle
Cutugno
Bonita Davis
Colleen Davis
Leslie Davis
Jennifer de Thomas
Dean and Joan
DeChaine
Dallas DeLuca
Jenny Dempsey Stein
Sally Edwards
Albrecht and Jeanne
Enders
Ron Ennis and Lesley
Cox
Jordan Epstein
Jeanne Farber
Dale Feik
Samantha Fishman
Marianne and Thomas
Fitzgerald
Brooks Foster
Julie and Brian Gefroh
Lisa Goddard
Susan Hanson
Jane Hartline
Richard Hawley
Mary Hayden
Diane Henkels
Karina and Sam
Hershberg-Mershon
Sarah Hershey
TJ Hester
Steve and Amy Higgs
Patrick Hilton
Emmer Holbrook and
Michael Hevron
Jeff Holiman

Barbara Holisky and
Gary McDonald
Jenna Jay
Robin Jenkinson
Robin Jensen
Danielle Johnson
Terry Jones
Teresa Keishi Soto
Patricia Kenschaft and
Frederick Chichester
Kendall KIC
Robert and Emily
Klavins
Leigh Knox
Chris Kochiss
Robert Lamkin
Priscilla Lane
Celeste Lewis
Leslee Lewis
Amy Livingstone
Patrick and Leslie
Logan
H. Clifford Looney
Laurel Lyon
Ruthann Marquis
Katherine McAnulty
Betsy McCarthy
Carol McCreary
Diane Meisenhelter
Amy Minato
Walter Mintkeski
Meghan Mix
Segeni Mungai
Patrick Neill
Lindsey Newman
Darci Nielson
Audrey O'Brien
Pat Osborn
Jenna Padbury
Bailey Payne
Jenn Pecenka
Ray and Anita Polani
David Posada
Mishelle and Steve
Radtke
Karen Reddick-Yurka
Katie Reed
Mark Reuland
Phil Richman
Judy Romano
Leslie Ross
Laurie Rutenberg
Suzanne Savell

Sheryl Scali and Glenn
Vargas
Jaylen Schmitt
Ralph Schmoltd
Heidi Schrimsher
Kate Schuyler
Lola Scobey
Sue Shade
Betty and Jon Shelley
John Shorb
Ben Sibelman
Steve and Judy
Sibelman
Melissa Sircy
Kim Smith
John and Janelle
Sorenson
Joanne Stainbrook
Tamara Staton
William Steimer
Susan Sterrenberg
Sean and Kelly Stevens
Claire Stock
Noelle Studer-Spevak
Cynthia Sulaski
Patrick Tarter and
Karen Underhill
Michelle Tashima
Matt and Bethany
Thomas
Geoff Tichenor
Shannon Tocchini
Mary Evelyn Tucker
and John A. Grim
Claire Von Derau
Lisa Waddick
Cami Waner
Kristin Wesel
Carolyn Wieden
Laura Wilke
Lyndon Wilson
Claudia Wilton
Jennifer Wyld
Kathy Zane

SPECIAL GIFTS

In honor of Olga Hawley

Hermina Magerl
Eileen Rex
Thomas and Cynthia
Ruttan
Nancy South
Suzanne Warninghoff



319 SW Washington
Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 227-2315
info@earthleaders.org
www.earthleaders.org

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 3891

2014 Annual Report

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

Center Briefs

In addition to our featured Eco-School Networks Program, we offer many programs to encourage action and maintain inspiration, including:

Agent of Change Program. Our signature program trains individuals to lead sustainability projects in a chosen circle of influence such as a workplace or neighborhood. Our **Agent of Change Network** provides continual support for alumni through events, field trips, and bi-monthly updates.

Naturalist in the Life of a Child Initiative. This new program of the Center enlists adults to make a lifelong commitment to one child in their family to continually amplify the child's innate sense of wonder and curiosity about nature.

Lawyers for a Sustainable Future. The Center's **Oregon Lawyers for a Sustainable Future** initiatives have moved the local legal profession into a national sustainable leadership role. Based on that model, we are now forming a national umbrella organization, **Lawyers for a Sustainable Future**, to encourage movement in other states.



The Center team from left: Audrey Schaab, Erica DeJong, Jeanne Roy, Dick Roy, and Kelly Stevens.

Green Lifestyle. We organize **Home Eco-Parties** (discussion with a host and ten guests), deliver workplace PowerPoint presentations on **The Path to Zero Waste**, and publish monthly **Eco-Tips** for redistribution in organizations.

Special Programs. Our annual **Earth Day Celebration** brings guest together to honor Earth. Our **Great Work Initiative** organizes nature outings, reading groups, and events like our September conversation with Michael Nelson, co-editor of the highly acclaimed book, *Moral Ground*.