



Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN) Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Highlights

As the world faces [accelerating climate change](#) and other threats to the well-being of our planet and communities, our region must address sustainability challenges that impact our environmental, social, and economic systems. Education, training, and increased public awareness are powerful game-changing tools that can reorient our focus and advance sustainable development across communities. Focused on formal and nonformal education, GPSEN and its partners are able to engage diverse stakeholders to share perspectives, foster partnerships, and facilitate collaboration to create and scale up solutions that meet short and long-term local, regional, and global goals. GPSEN's strategic plan for 2019-2022 places sustainability education at the forefront in order to transform "business as usual" to a sustainable future through new levels of shared identities, empowerment, and active engagement.

Organizational Description

Located in the Portland metro region, the [Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network \(GPSEN\)](#) serves Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington counties in Oregon and Washington. Recognized as a [Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development \(RCE\)](#) by United Nations University, GPSEN supports the RCE purpose to promote transformative education that encourages sustainable practices regionally and to share lessons and insights with other RCEs around the world.

Our Mission:
Connect diverse organizations in a collaborative network that multiplies our collective capacity to educate, empower, and engage for a sustainable future.

Strategic Priorities and Actions

- Educational programs, such as our [Sustainability Symposium](#) and [Train-the-Trainer Workshops](#)
- Developing partnerships and co-hosting community events
- Engaging community members in networking opportunities
- Fostering leadership skills through our Youth and College Networks
- Promoting events, resources, and outreach campaigns via our online GPSEN Regional Hub, newsletter, and social media
- Encouraging professional development with our GPSEN Interns and Fellows programs, including via collaborative research projects and our Think Tank
- Mapping and connecting organizations, groups, and businesses to ESD efforts and the SDGs
- Aligning governance with local, regional, national, and international sustainability initiatives, including the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Our Core Strategy:
GPSEN will position itself to be the Regional Hub for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through sustainability education. GPSEN aims to achieve this by supporting collaboration and linking stakeholder needs to network resources that facilitate equitable, adaptive, and resilient development in the region.



Our three-year vision was developed by GPSEN's Board of Directors, Senior Advisors, committees, partners, and community members, with our four core committees identifying key goals to achieve between 2019-2022.

Outreach and Communications Committee (O&C)

<p>The O&C committee develops partnerships and communicates with local and broader communities through our newsletter, website, social media, and other means such as promoting events, including our Symposium, offering presentations, tabling at events, and increasing awareness on pressing issues.</p>	<p>Committee Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be the #1 source for sustainability events and resources. 2. Update and create sustainable partner management model. 3. Promote new website.
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Programs and Events Committee (P&E)

<p>The P&E committee is responsible for developing educational programs and events, such as GPSEN's signature event, the Sustainability Symposium, train-the-trainer workshops, and networks for students and other stakeholders to harvest and share sustainability knowledge and skills to advance sustainability education.</p>	<p>Committee Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Symposium strategy that is within our resource capacity, leverages partnerships, and furthers the goals of GPSEN. 2. Co-host Sustainability Socials and UN Days with Partners. 3. Strengthen Youth and College Networks. 4. Solidify training resources and develop/execute a strategy for pricing, outreach, and delivery of trainings and workshops.
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Research and Curriculum Committee (R&C)

<p>The R&C committee is responsible for identifying sustainability-based resources in diverse institutions, organizations and people in our communities, including challenges to sustainability-based solutions and bringing them to light through special projects, think-tank meetings, networking events, and publications.</p>	<p>Committee Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have GPSEN become a thought leader in the region for identifying sustainability innovations. 2. Develop an online database of existing efforts related to the SDGs in the Greater Portland region. 3. GPSEN will bridge academia & practitioners. 4. GPSEN provides admin support for scholars outside academia to conduct grant-based academic level research.
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Governance Committee (G)

<p>The Governance committee is responsible for policy and planning required to position GPSEN's work strategically with our stakeholders and harness the skills within our organization to make progress towards our goals. It also ensures that diversity, equity and inclusion are core tenets of our work, ensuring long-term collective impact.</p>	<p>Committee Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Financial Strategy. 2. Refine Organizational Processes. 3. Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Board and Partners. 4. Fund Executive Director Position.
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Conclusion

As a multi-sector network of educators, students, non-profits, political and industry leaders, civic organizations, and community members, GPSEN has great potential to enhance its role as a connector. By reorienting education toward a sustainable future, we hope to help resolve short and long-term sustainability challenges by inspiring community members to participate in transformative change in their homes, schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, and organizations. We welcome the engagement of all who feel called to make a difference through the power of collective impact and education for sustainable development.

Educate ~ Empower ~ Engage

Learn more at: gpsen.org.