## **GPSEN Youth Network**

(Name to be decided)

**GPSEN mission:** 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.

**GPSEN Vision:** GPSEN connects diverse organizations in a collaborative network that multiplies our collective capacity to educate, empower, and engage for a sustainable future.

## Youth Network Goals:

To create a network of high school students to empower and mobilize youth to help create a sustainable future in the greater Portland region and beyond.

To create meaningful projects and programs founded by high school students that address real needs in their communities.

To maintain projects and programs founded by high school students that can be maintained after students graduate, so they can be sustainable and leave an ongoing imprint on Portland

To mentor incoming cohorts of youth to carry on projects and participate in the Youth Network

Help implement the UN’s [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics) and UNESCO’s [Global Action Programme (GAP) for ESD](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002305/230514e.pdf)’s Priority Action Areas:

1. Advancing policy by mainstreaming ESD
2. Transforming learning and training environments through whole-institution approaches
3. Building capacities of educators and trainers
4. Empowering and mobilizing youth
5. Accelerating sustainable solutions at the local level

## Possible Already Existing Programs to Get Started With:

[International Virtual Youth Conference -RCE Grand Rapids](http://www.grandrapidsrce.org/vyc2014/)

[Hands On Greater Portland](http://www.handsonportland.org/) Highly recommend organizing a team for service projects

International Pen Pal Program, with the [Regional Centers of Expertise (RCEs)](http://www.rce-network.org/portal/rces-worldwide) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) around the world

Sustainability Symposium (Annual research event, with presentations and displays, sponsored by GPSEN at the end of April.)

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## Contacts:

[Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN)](http://gpsen.org/), aka RCE Greater Portland- Coordinator, Kim Smith [kdsmith@pcc.edu](mailto:kdsmith@pcc.edu)

[PLACE Program](http://www.catlin.edu/page.cfm?p=629), Catlin Gabel, George Zaninovich, zaninovichg@[catlin.edu](http://catlin.edu/)

[World Affairs Council/ Young Leaders in Action](http://worldoregon.org/news/education/young-leaders-in-action-a-new-opportunity-for-portland-teens), Andrew Neal at **andrew@worldoregon.org**

## Additional Resources and Projects:

[Heroic Imagination Project](http://heroicimagination.org/)  (Youth empowerment training workshops) Sustainability trainings being created with GPSEN’s college student network. Once designed, college students can host trainings for Youth Network

Networking events

Articulation agreements between schools and colleges- transferring of credits, sustainability classes

We could work with local governments and help implement initiatives, as well as receive funding.