



Welcome to SPEC!

Since 1969, **volunteers** have made SPEC a successful environmental organization.

SPEC is a **volunteer-driven** organization

By volunteering with SPEC you can:

- Be part of change
- Learn
- Give back
- Meet like-minded people
- Get things done!
- Make the world a better place

10 THINGS THAT ARE GOOD TO KNOW ABOUT SPEC

History and Mandate:

1. Founded in 1969, is the oldest environmental non-profit in Canada.
2. Focuses on practical solutions for urban sustainability in the Lower Mainland (main focus, given current capacity, is Vancouver).
3. Key areas of work are: food security, waste reduction, energy conservation, sustainable transportation, water conservation and protection of land and water resources.

People and Operations:

4. Has 3 to 6 employees and over 30 active volunteers.
5. Is governed by a board of directors. All board members are volunteers.
6. In general, SPEC's work falls under committees (or teams) which are led by volunteer Chairs. Current committees: a) Food & Environment, b) Energy & Transportation, and c) Zero Waste.
7. Most of the work takes the form of Education, Research and/or Advocacy.
8. Volunteer opportunities generally fall in the following categories: a) As part of a committee (general support or project-based), 2) at a community event, 3) general support (administration, fundraising, design, communications), 4) as a Board member

Style and Culture:

9. Values collaboration, initiative, innovation, and respect for diversity
10. The magic mix of pro-activeness and patience: SPEC is a great organization to bring and share your own ideas. Be proactive, but also be patient. Good ideas sometimes need time to find the right place, the team and the funding to make them happen. We value volunteers that can consider making a commitment of at least 6 months so that they can get to know the organization and how it operates.

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in joining the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC).

Since SPEC began, having passionate volunteers who donate their time and knowledge has been the most valuable part of our society. As a non-profit organization, volunteers like you play an important role in all our accomplishments, and we are eager to engage with people who are motivated to make a positive impact on our urban environment.

SPEC is a non-profit organization incorporated under the B.C. Society Act. Our core purpose is our mission. Specifics details describing how we function are outlined in our constitution and bylaws.

Mission: To provide our community with practical solutions for urban sustainability.

Vision: A healthy, just and vibrant urban life that enhances local and global eco-systems.

Core Values:

Rooted in Community: We are local, grassroots and volunteer-driven. We collaborate with other community members and organizations as a way to strengthen community and increase our impact.

Respectful: We work with integrity and an open mindset. We listen to others and work to include other perspectives.

Empowering: Through a positive and fun environment we strive to support, nurture, enable and educate community members for action.

Purposeful: We value clarity, focus and a resilient structure that can make our work more effective and our

VOLUNTEER ROLES

We have four types of roles that you can take on, depending on your interests, skills, and availability.

1) **Committees:** Currently, we have three active committees:

- **Energy & Transportation** promotes energy conservation and the use of renewable energy and advocates for sustainable transportation. They are always looking for “energetic” volunteers to help put together projects that focus on issues around fossil fuel reduction, alternative energy, and education.
- **Food & Environment** helps to protect our brown, green, and blue spaces and build a more sustainable and resilient local food system. They have activities and gardens at different locations throughout our community to assist those in need of food support.
- **Zero Waste** promotes practices that lead to waste reduction.

To see which committees’ interest and activities align with yours, you can review their past and current projects on our website. Meeting times and locations are posted in our Upcoming Events calendar on the home page, and you can “like us” on Facebook.

Some committees have their contact email included in their meeting info, for others email us at volunteer@spec.bc.ca.

- 2) **Events:** You can volunteer to help out on the day of an event. Some ongoing events include our beach cleanups, AGM, and community outreach as a table exhibitor at local events in our community. Trusted volunteers can take on a lead role by helping to organize our participation in an event.
- 3) **Special Tasks:** SPEC also seeks volunteers who have special skills such as video-graphing, graphic designing, brand strategy, and administration.

- 4) **Members of the Board:** Board members oversee general governance, finances, and the strategic direction of the organization. The board is also a working board, so many of its members participate in organizing events, leading committees or specific projects, fundraising and recruitment. Board members must complete our application process and be elected by our members at our AGM.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please email volunteer@spec.bc.ca to receive our application form. SPEC typically recruits board members in the fall of every year, before our Annual General Meeting. However, we also recruit during the year when there is a specific need to cover or an opportunity arises to bring new expertise to the team.

ADVANTAGES OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering can give you satisfaction and fulfillment from helping others and contributing to society. It also creates possibilities for gaining experience, knowledge, new skills and meaningful connections.

By volunteering with SPEC, you can:

- Connect with other SPEC volunteers and community members
- Create and facilitate awareness
- Engage in community-based activities
- Learn about the non-profit sector and its role in our communities
- Participate in environmental conservation initiatives
- Participate in sustainable behavioural changes

NEED

Your efforts are needed to not only support our organization, but also our work to take care of our communities and our planet. Consumerism is a human activity that is taking a toll on our Earth's resources and natural environment—and it is a habit that is difficult to break.

By working together to prioritize urban sustainability and reduce our consumer needs, you can help make a difference.

SPEC aims to make our volunteers' experiences valuable and enjoyable. Not only can you contribute to a project or topic that you are passionate about, but you can also gain experience, training from experts in specific fields, and connect with others.

Finally, SPEC cannot operate without you, passionate volunteers who donate their time and knowledge to our society. As SPEC is a non-profit organization, we are always eager to work with volunteers who are motivated to make a positive impact on our urban environment.

CONTACT US!

For more information or to volunteer, contact us at volunteer@spec.bc.ca, 604.736.7732, www.spec.bc.ca/become-a-volunteer