

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation

SPEC 2010

Annual Report

spec.bc.ca
604 736 7732

Heathy Cities Are Our Future

Message from the President

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of SPEC this year. I have enjoyed working with dedicated Board members and an exceptional staff to enhance our programs on urban sustainability and to continue our mission of building a healthy, liveable region.

Last year we celebrated 40 years of environmental achievement. Looking back on SPEC's many successes has renewed our energy and commitment, despite the very real challenges that environmental organizations face with the continued economic downturn and loss of core funding sources.

Despite these challenges, there are many reasons to celebrate. Our campaigns continue to be active and make a difference in the community. Our Food Committee works hard to advocate for a sustainable regional food system through education, advocacy and outreach. The Energy Committee has focused on growing the SPEC Sustainability Demonstration Centre as a model renewable energy centre. Through demonstrations, tours and workshops, we are helping citizens learn how to make more sustainable living choices. Our Waste Committee has been re-energized and is focused on advocating for a zero waste region.

On the communications front, SPEC has a new look! To celebrate 40 years of success, we recently updated our logo and launched a new website to more effectively communicate our mission of building a healthy, liveable and ecologically sustainable region. Our goal is to raise awareness of critical urban environmental issues through education, action and community engagement. Check out the new website at **www.spec.bc.ca**!

On the financial front, it has been another challenging year for SPEC. We are working hard to reduce our dependency on foundation and grant support and are grateful to our individual donors, our monthly donors in particular, for their support during this difficult time. We would especially like to thank Rick Pollay and friends for their generous matching grant during our spring membership drive.

None of our successes this past year would be possible without the dedication and vision of our staff, board and volunteers. Many thanks to our wonderful staff members, Ilse Sarady, Marnie Newell and Catriona Gordon, who handle the day-to-day operations of the organization. Thanks also to our communications team Kyle Mitchell and Jordon Fowler for their fabulous work creating the new SPEC website and communications system and Ruth Legg for her help in focusing SPEC's marketing strategy. And finally, thanks to the many volunteers, board members and donors whose steadfast support allows us to continue our work building healthy cities. As we begin our 42nd year of environmental advocacy, we know that with your support, we will continue to make a difference for another 40 years and beyond.



Joanna Robinson
SPEC President

Table of Contents

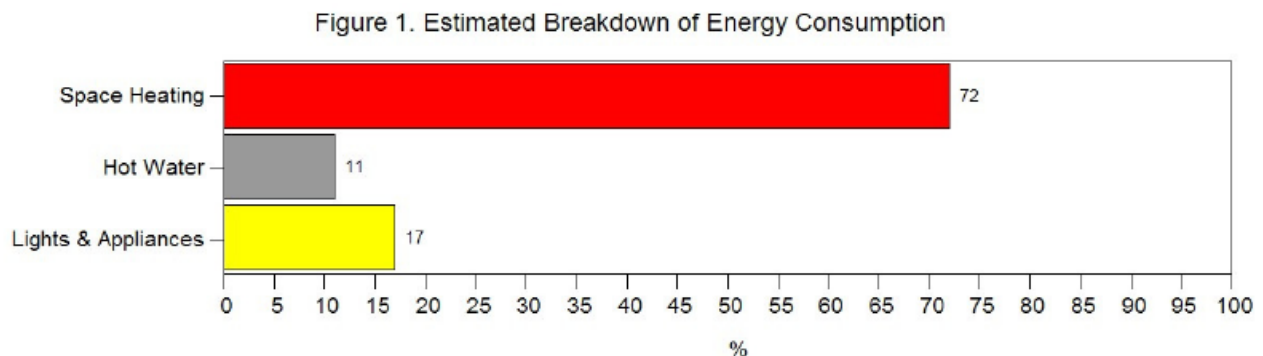
Energy Campaign	4
Food Campaign	7
Waste Campaign	11
Transportation Campaign	122
Land and Water Campaign	133
SPEC Events	144
SPEC's New Look	15
Our Spectacular People	17
Financial highlights	22
Membership and Membership benefits	22



Energy Campaign

During the past year, SPEC recruited four new members to the Energy Committee; Doug Horn (Certified Energy Advisor, Building Technologist and a LEED Accredited Professional), David McKee (Energy Management Consultant), Cindy Yee (architectural draftsman with wide ranging experience in residential constructions), and Ana Nic Lochlainn (Environmental Scientist). In the past year the committee has worked, along with our French engineering volunteer, Amaury Flambard, on tracking and modeling the SPEC building's energy consumption. Amaury's calculations showed that since 2006, SPEC has increased our water consumption by 12% (likely due to the increased need of water for the roof top garden), reduced our electrical consumption by 9.5% and our gas consumption by 15%. The results also showed that 72% of our energy consumption comes from heating of the building, 11% from heating water and 17% from lighting and other appliances. It is now our committee's highest priority to raise funds to replace our old natural gas furnace with a new high-efficiency furnace and/or an air source heat pump. Using a blower door test, Doug Horn also conducted a building envelope test. You can learn more about how building envelope tests are done by watching our [SPEC Blower Door Test video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8tiCxPVPr0) (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8tiCxPVPr0>).

Figure 1 breaks down your house's estimated annual energy consumption for space heating, hot water and lights and appliances.



The SPEC Building's estimated Annual Energy Consumption

Incentives – making the right thing possible?

This year was a confusing one as far as building retrofit incentives, with many changes in what was available. SPEC kept our newsletter readers and tour visitors up-to-date by providing the latest information on any incentive changes.

EcoEnergy retrofit program –cancelled due to popularity

On March 31st 2010, the federal \$220 million ecoEnergy retrofit grant program, which was introduced in 2007 to tackle national climate change and stimulate the development of a green economy by providing homeowners with a financial incentive to retrofit their homes, was cancelled without warning. The rebate program had been used to replace old furnaces,



hot water tanks, windows and install wall insulation and attic insulation – all to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2009, the federal budget documents states that, due to the popularity of the program, another \$80 million was to be allocated to support “additional retrofits by Canadian homeowners” (the Globe and Mail, March 31, 2010). One year later, however, the program had reached its capacity and was cancelled without warning, resulting in a decline of business for home energy assessment providers and affecting thousands of other Canadian workers in the energy-conservation industry.

The LiveSmart program, the provincial equivalent of the ecoEnergy program

At the same time as the federal ecoEnergy retrofit grant program was cancelled, the Provincial LiveSmart program started accepting homeowners into a newer version of their program. The BC 2010 budget announced an allocation of \$35 million for the program which where made possible by partnering with Terasen Gas, BC Hydro, and FortisBC. This program expires March 31, 2011.

Other incentive programs

This year we also saw SolarBC announcing an increase in their solar hot water incentive from \$1000 to \$2000 per install. The City of Vancouver also added to the pool of financial support, by stepping up and offering incentives for solar hot water installations within the City.

These incentives have helped make solar energy production more affordable for home and business owners. Continued interest in solar energy and backing from government and funders will help make this a stronger source of renewable energy production in our region.

Green building technology and solar tours

Throughout the year, SPEC hosted numerous green building technology and solar tours at the SPEC Demonstration Building. Thanks to the publicity work of our volunteers and marketing intern Ruth Legg, we have been able to reach ever increasing numbers of people this year. Evaluations from tour participants indicate that the majority of our visitors are contractors or homeowners who already have some knowledge of renewable energy and energy conservation. Most participants, however, had never heard of or seen light reflectors, solar hot air panels or solar cookers. After attending SPEC’s tour, all



SFU students visiting SPEC for a solar tour



of the participants indicated that they were more likely to invest in green building and renewable energy technology.

These evaluation results clearly demonstrate the relevance and importance of our shared facility where our community members can come too see renewable energy and energy conservation in action and have their questions answered on the spot by an energy expert. We thank our Energy Committee members Doug Horn and Rob Baxter for hosting the tours and providing our community with their expertise!

In addition to our public tours, SPEC also hosted several tours for school groups. We had elementary school groups up to university level visiting our building. One of the tours were for students from SFU's 4th year Environment and Development class who came to learn about building energy conservation and renewable energy. "I have received very positive feedback from my students about the workshop! The tour has helped the students to learn from a local experience that is close to home for a much more environmentally friendly initiative to combat climate change..." Shawn Shens, Instructor at School for International Studies at SFU.

BC Solar Days

To celebrate the sun and educate the public about renewable energy, on May 28, 2010, SPEC partook in BC's first annual Solar Day celebration. The BC solar celebrations ran in conjunction with Europe's annual solar week, which is hosted in 10 countries around Europe. We kept our visitors entertained by running several solar tours, helping visitors analyze their home's energy usage by comparing it to a typical BC home and by building a solar oven out of a cardboard box.



Public sector organizations -carbon neutral

This year was also the year to really get going to achieve the BC's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act (GGRTA). GGRTA works to find solutions to climate change by requiring that all of BC's public sector organizations will be carbon neutral by the end of 2010, and proceed to reduce their carbon emissions to reach the following bench marks:

- a six percent reduction of carbon emissions by 2012 (compared to 2007 level)
- 18 percent by 2016
- 33 percent by 2020, and
- 80 percent by 2050



According to the “Walking the Talk” website; the GGTRA has a big potential to engage and educate people who attend and work in all public sector organizations that will strive to reduce their environmental footprint. At SPEC we are working to a holistic and creative approach to positive change, which means addressing the usual contributors to GHG emissions such as home energy use but also to the lesser known. Our Food Committee believes that making changes in the way we produce and consume food has the potential to affect a wide-scale reduction in our communities’ carbon emissions and environmental footprints with multiple added benefits.

Food Campaign

School Gardens Project

Public interest in and energy behind school food gardens seems to have skyrocketed this year; so did our School Gardens Project. Expertise gained over the first two years of the program, paired with the addition of a second project coordinator to the team allowed SPEC’s Food Committee to expand this project from two to six Vancouver schools. Backed by members, board members and SPEC’s dedicated Food Committee, coordinators Catriona Gordon and Marnie Newell helped Queen Elizabeth Elementary, General Brock Elementary, L’Ecole



A class tends to their sweet peas and harvests potatoes



Students and teachers with their completed garden box

Bilingue and Grenfell Elementary schools plan, install, plant, maintain and harvest their organic school food gardens. One school, General Brock Elementary added to the challenge (and the rewards) of their school gardening project by partnering with a high school wood working class at Tupper High to build their garden boxes.

During the spring and summer months of 2010 SPEC staff and volunteers visited these four

new schools and our two schools who installed gardens last year to facilitate

hands-on learning activities for classes in the garden and the classroom. Grades involved ranged from Kindergarten to grade 10 in both English and French Immersion streams. These



lessons helped to educate teachers and students alike about food systems and agricultural science, as well as engage participants in a memorable environmental project. Over the summer, we continued to assist summer maintenance teams with planting and harvesting including planting seedlings for fall and winter harvests.

To support policy work aimed at making permanent changes to include food systems education in BC's school curriculum, our School Gardens Project coordinators worked to quantitatively and objectively evaluate the effect of the program. One student exclaimed at the end of the year that the garden was the project he was most proud of in his elementary years. Teachers confirmed the value of the program and their wish to see it expand.

For those schools unable to start a garden on their own grounds, we opened up our Rooftop Container Garden as a teaching and learning space. Students from nearby schools learned about our food system and helped plant our rooftop crops.

Continued support of school gardens from the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board and emerging bodies paired with support from SPEC members and the public at large SPEC envisions a bright and continued future for this project.

Workshops

This spring and summer the Food Committee ran five workshops at SPEC to help local residents learn more about organic gardening and cutting-edge research. Roughly 100 people attended these workshops, many becoming SPEC members as a result. This year's topics were as follows:



- Introduction to Growing in Small Spaces
- Birds, Bees and Biodiversity
- Growing Food in Small Spaces at Jericho Earth Day Event
- Waterwise and Succession Gardening
- Agriculture and Climate Change
- Winter Container Gardening

We also co-hosted two workshops along with [Village Vancouver](#) this spring, Year Round Food with Robin Wheeler and Soil and Plant Health Management with Grant Watson.

Other events

Approximately 600 people visited SPEC over the course of the year to learn about food issues and solutions. We enjoyed many visits from school groups who learned about our food system and helped plant our Rooftop Container Garden.



University Collaboration

The Food Committee's collaboration with university faculty and students blossomed this year. Global Resource Systems student Mandy Desautels partnered with the School Gardens team on a directed studies project and three classes in the faculties of Land and Food Resources and Sociology worked with the Food Committee on research projects. Two of these took shape through the new Think and Eat Green at Schools project (TEGS), a new Social Science and Humanities Research Council –University Research Alliance project. SPEC is a co-investigator on this project which seeks to inform and support healthy food habits in school. Read more about [TEGS](#)

Reflections from the Roof: Taking Stock Four Years Later

by Vice President Tara Moreau

The SPEC rooftop container garden grows much more than food. Started in 2007 by SPEC'ers Carole Christopher, Karen Wristen and myself, Tara Moreau, the organic garden has functioned as a place of learning, sharing, eating, working, singing and research. Recently, I spoke at the Earthwise Society's 'Food for a Small Planet – Kitchen Garden Series' where they had asked me share SPEC's reflections from the roof.

The opportunity to reflect specifically on SPEC's rooftop was exciting because I realized that over four years I have witnessed first hand that more grows in a garden than greens. At SPEC, volunteers like myself, get to be involved with learning and research into growing food in containers, working with people, implementing sustainable food systems, managing pests, composting wastes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and working with natural fertilizers all in collaboration with neighbours, children and friends.



Betsy Mae Fox, Spec rooftop volunteer since 2008

The SPEC gardens team (which also cares for Cambie Square Garden) has been blogging about its urban agriculture experiences since November 2007 (see our first post on our [Gardens Blog](#). (specgardens.blogspot.com))

With over 92 stories shared, the SPEC garden demonstration blog is one example of how SPEC is informing both local and global citizens (since May 2010 almost 500 visitors from over 28 countries have viewed our blog!).

So, as I move forward in my own research into climate-smart agriculture which seems overly complicated at times, I wonder if one simple roof garden can host hundreds of visitors, stimulate research projects, spur the development of a school garden program and inspire others to grow food then.... what would a city of rooftop gardens do?



Cambie Communal Garden



Kiana with Tromboncino Squash

While this summer proved a drizzly one, SPEC's Cambie Communal Garden produced many successful crops not the mention many happy gardeners. Volunteers Vicky Baker, Tina Dam and Jodi Mayne played pivotal roles in the coordination of the garden this year. Many new volunteers of all ages were involved and new additions to the garden were made. Significantly, the garden now boasts many informational signs designed and hand painted on reclaimed wood by Jodi Mayne as well as a mason bee box which housed several bees over the year. One of the biggest vegetable hits of the summer was the interesting and space efficient squash pictured below. New compost was donated by the MOBY garden and seeds by West Coast Seeds. The garden is now in its fifth year. See more photos on our [Gardens Blog](#)

Isobel Kiborn lives on

Sadly, SPEC had its bike trailer and display materials stolen this year, but in the usual SPEC fashion of luck, a donated bike trailer showed up at our doorstep only weeks later. The stylish and well functioning trailer was part of the Cargo Bike Coop legacy project recognising the contribution made to the community by Isobel Kiborn, a long-time East Vancouver activist and SPEC volunteer. SPEC's new trailer is used primarily to transport seedlings, teaching materials, garden supplies and event materials across town. SPEC is very grateful for this very appropriate memorial in honour of a dedicated environmentalist.

Bike trailer donated by Isobel Kiborn Memorial loaded with garden mulch



Protecting Our Agricultural Lands

In addition to the work we do to strengthen Vancouver's urban agriculture movement, SPEC has been closely following developments in rural agriculture in the province and, in particular, issues facing British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in order to keep our members and volunteers informed and empowered to take action.

With a new Chair and CEO of the ALR's governing commission (the ALC) taking office in June, three high profile Lower Mainland ALR exclusion applications – Pelton farmland, the 64th/Mumford overpass, and the Alberni RV Park – subsequently being denied, food security advocates had reason to be optimistic about the security of our province's agricultural lands. The Auditor General's September release of his office's stinging report on the state of ALC and ALR itself, as well as the announcement from the ALC that its internal review would be conducted without broad and open public consultation, however, reminds us that the threat of development remains high.

Our food security in British Columbia depends on the availability of productive farmland that is not only protected from loss, degradation, and development, but is also available to active farmers, and at SPEC we see a strengthened and enhanced Agricultural Land Reserve as integral to a food secure future. We look forward to further campaign work on this issue in the New Year, as we continue to work with multiple organizations, researchers and postsecondary institutions to ensure we promote informed, realistic and balanced policy decisions to create both an environmentally and economically sound food system.

Back Yard Chickens in Vancouver

The SPEC community was thrilled when news hit the streets in June that Vancouver City Council had enacted amendments to the Animal Control Bylaw and Zoning and Development Bylaw that would allow Vancouverites to keep backyard hens! It had been allowed previously only on properties one acre or larger. Eager to take their urban agriculture experience to the next level, SPEC foodies Vicky Baker and Caitlin Dorward were quick to take advantage of the bylaw changes and are now proud keepers of healthy backyard flocks which provide eggs (and amusement) to their family and friends. Check out this short video of Vicky's flock made by SPEC volunteer and intern Jordan Brock Fowler at www.spec.bc.ca/multimedia and stay tuned in the New Year for more outreach and events around the rearing of backyard hens.

Waste Campaign

On June 30, 2010 the Metro Vancouver Board approved the new Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan. Metro Vancouver is responsible for managing the garbage produced by residents and businesses in the Lower Mainland. The new plan sets a goal of 70% diversion by 2015 and an "aspirational target" of 80% diversion by 2020. Several initiatives to achieve these goals are laid out in the plan, including an increased focus on food waste (including the piloting of [residential food waste pick-up](#)), private sector recycling, and construction waste management. Perhaps most controversially, the plan also calls for the creation of one or more waste-to-energy facilities. The plan has been sent to the Provincial Ministry of Environment for approval.



Battery Recycling

In March 2010, Call2Recycle® was approved as “the first government-mandated consumer battery collection and recycling program in North America, selected for implementation throughout the province by the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment”. ([Globe Net, March 22, 2010](#))

Call2Recycle has recycled rechargeable batteries since 1997, and had in their exciting recycling infrastructure they have come across plenty of non-rechargeable batteries, hence shifting over to collect all household batteries was not a very big step to take. As of July 1, 2010, Call2Recycle accepts all household batteries in their recycling program.

In the midst of these regional changes, SPEC continued our work to educate the public about the importance of battery recycling by taking our outreach material to various events. In collaboration with three graduate students from Emily Carr; Su-An Ng, Gillian Cole and Leanna Knowles we created “Battery Talk” –a video showing examples of appliances that may contain batteries, what people do with their batteries after they are spent and why they batteries should be recycled. “Battery Talks” can viewed on our website or on [YouTube](#). To find a battery collection location near you can use Call2Recycle’s [drop off locator](#), alternatively you can still bring your batteries to SPEC for recycling.

New Waste Committee

A newly revived SPEC Waste Committee has been formed under the leadership of a new Director, Patrick McGuinness (read more on page 19) to further support waste reduction in our region. SPEC is always looking for more volunteers to help with waste reduction campaigns. Please contact us if you're interested in creating a zero-waste future.

Transportation Campaign

Without outside funding sources our Transportation Committee was limited in its scope. However, this did not stop Board members, staff and volunteers from continued advocacy and education work.

Education

SPEC kept the public informed on transportation initiatives in Vancouver. A summer update informed members of the status of the proposed UBC Corridor rapid transit line as well as the new Dunsmuir viaduct separated bike lane.

The [Dunsmuir Viaduct bike lane](#) officially opened June 16th, creating a safe connection for cyclists between East Vancouver and Downtown. The opening came about a month after the City of Vancouver announcement to spend \$25 million improving bike infrastructure in the city over the next 2 years. [City of Vancouver statistics](#) show that before the upgrades, roughly [4,000 cyclists](#) used the lane weekly. After construction that number rose closer to 12,000 weekly cyclists. Moving forward, the City then began work on the [Hornby Bike lane](#), which officially opened Dec 7th.



SPEC supports the City's initiatives to bake Vancouver more bike friendly in the interest of personal, community and global health.



The City of Vancouver's plan for Separated Bike Lanes

Advocacy

SPEC continued to challenge provincial and local leaders to reconsider and abandon the highly controversial Gateway Highway Expansion project. When leaders met behind closed doors to discuss transportation funding, SPEC issued a press release calling for a change in funding policy from prioritizing expensive and short-sighted highway expansion projects to public transit initiatives. Read the [press release](#) on our website.

Land and Water Campaign

This year our land and water campaign focused on water pollution issues. School groups came to SPEC to learn about threats to our water system and ways of reducing them. Volunteers also began construction of a model watershed to help in our education efforts.

The threat to our waters that dominated the media this year was highlighted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil rig explosion in May. The event brought to light the reality of oil exploration and reminded us of what oil exploration and increased transportation could mean for our own coastal waters.

SPEC connected members and the public to campaigns opposing the controversial Enbridge pipeline proposal, currently undergoing environmental assessment. This project proposal has put the 1971 moratorium SPEC helped to secure at risk (Find out more by visiting our Land and Water campaign page at spec.bc.ca/offshore-oil). Promisingly, most recently, on December 7th, the House of Commons passed a [motion](#) calling for the Conservative government to [enact legislation](#) that would legally ban crude-oil tanker traffic off British Columbia's north coast.



SPEC Events

SPEC Harvest Festival and 40th Anniversary

In October 2009, SPEC celebrated 40 years as an environmental organization! The Canadian Scientific Pollution and Environmental Control Society of British Columbia, who in 1982 changed their name to the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) was founded by Gwen and Derrick Mallard in October 1969.

It is hard to summarize four decades of environmental education and advocacy work, but our Jordan Brock Fowler did an amazing job summarizing the key events of our history in [The SPEC Film](#).

(You can also read about our key successes on our [website](#)).



Local Anxiety

In the theme of a Harvest Festival, we celebrated our current and past campaign work with delicious local treats from Trafalgar Bistro, Sweet Obsession, Cibo Tattoria and Rocky Mountain Flatbread. Thanks to these restaurants, our visitors enjoyed a wide spread the local foods that the month of October had to offer. Live entertainment was provided by The Wind Whistle and Mark Leiren-Young, producer of the Green Chain, preformed satiric songs with his Local Anxiety performance partner, Kevin Crofton. Thanks to our volunteers, we could also offer a wide assortment of wine, donated from local wineries. Pumpkins, supplied by Abby

Produce and West Island Herb Farm where painted by children for a price draw.

We would like to thank the following business and individuals for their donation and support towards our Harvest Festival: The City of Vancouver, En Mass Media, Eco-packaging, Aspenware, Costco, Paradise Wine Ranch, Green Earth Organics, International Year of the Tiger Foundation, Cliffhanger, Saturna Island Family Estate Winery, River Bend Winery, Canadian Hazlenut Inc, Jason Fast, and Gerry Thorne. To view [photos](#) from the event please visit our [website](#).



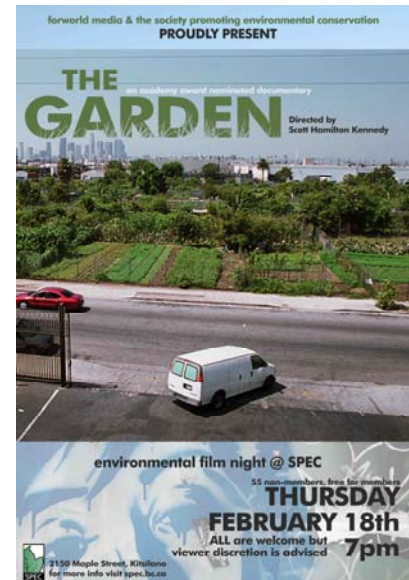
Educational Film Nights

2009 was also the year of educational film nights, with live entertainment beforehand from Soft Serve. Run by volunteers, SPEC showcased the following films; *The Garden*, *The Yes Men Fix the World*, *To the Tar Sands* with the short film *I Bike You* by J. Brock Fowler, *The Unforeseen* and *No Impact Man*.

Outreach Events and Visits

Over 1000 people visited SPEC over the course of the year to learn about food issues and solutions, renewable energy and waste management. In addition to those visiting as part of our Energy or Food committee's workshops and tours we enjoyed many visits from many others and attended several outside events. These included many groups of students seeking to learn about environmental lifestyle choices. Other interesting visitors included representatives from YWCA's Peace Network, a school group from Portland, Oregon, ESL groups and afterschool care groups along with everyday passer-bys interested in urban environmentalism or seeking answers to specific environmental questions.

SPEC's outreach team also attended many outside events to reach a wider audience. This included several events and presentations at UBC, Vancouver Community College, Earth Day at Jericho Beach, and Commercial Drive and Main Street's Car Free Day.



SPEC's New Look

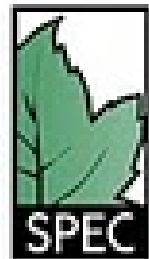
With the generous support of Kyjormac Inc, Jordan Brock Flower joined our team alongside his partner, Whitney Peterson, to, in the words of Jordan, “create a youthful and cool look for SPEC”. The result was our new maple leaf logo with the maple keys.

In addition to redesigning our logo, Jordan worked closely with Kyle Mitchell to revamp the look and feel to our website.

As an avid filmmaker, Jordan created short films on SPEC's campaign work. These short films featuring the Schools Gardens, Backyard chickens, the Blower Door Test, and an invitation to SPEC's solar day celebration can be viewed on SPEC's website or on our Youtube page.

Logo's from the past...

Below is the evolutionary time line of logos developed by SPEC people in the past 40 years;



SPEC's new logo...

Designed by Jordan Brock Fowler and Whitney Peterson, this logo was introduced this summer!



Our Spectacular People

What would we be without our keen and committed volunteers? To be honest, we could not do what we do, or be who we are. Volunteers are of the essence for our organization's success. Their commitment to SPEC helps us make a difference in our community. Our volunteers sit on our committees and help us run our campaigns. They design our outreach material, promote our workshops, take care



of our computers, and assist with renovations and administrative tasks. Not only do they do all this for us, this year, they also made SPEC's 40th anniversary possible by partaking in the planning and sourcing out in-kind donations. In short, our volunteers are incredible! SPEC feels forever grateful towards these amazing people and their strong commitment to do something that benefits the people and environment around them. SPEC would like to thank the following volunteers for their contribution this past year:

Volunteer	Description of volunteer work
Alex Carrier	Event support
Amaury Flamard	Energy tracking and modeling
Ana Niclocland	Event support and member of the Energy Committee
Beth MacDonald	Event support
Breanna H	Graphic design, school facilitation
Cecile Helten	Administrative support
Cindy Yee	Member of the Energy Committee, building maintenance
David McKee	Member of the Energy Committee, fundraising
Doug Horn	Member of the Energy Committee, workshop host, building maintenance
Duran Cheung	Photographer
Emily Hoffpauir	Event support
Frank Liao	Research and Writing
Ivan Doomene	Roof top garden
Jennifer Mitchell	Watershed model construction
Jodi Mayne	Cambie Garden Leader, Artwork, Event support
Jordan Brock Fowler	Producer of the SPEC film, Event support
Jong Ho Kwan	Event support
Julie Stevens	School Facilitation
Katia Tynan	Event support
Krystal Wiseman	Event support
Leah Chang	Event support
Leonardo Harada	Computer support
Mandy Desautels	Research, workshop assistant, school facilitation
Mark Grimsrud	Graphic design
Michelle Wong	Graphic design
Paul Mitchell	Watershed model construction
Pete Kindiak	Event support
Rachael Jones	Research and Writing
Rachael Whittaker	Workshop assistant
Rebecca Kindiak	Event support
Sanaz	Event support
Sharron Enns	Event support, Building maintenance
Shelley Heinrichs	Member of the Energy Committee
Sonya Stasula	Research
Stephanie Thomas	Event Support
Tim Collins	Research/ Building maintenance



Volunteer	Description of volunteer work
Tina Dam	Cambie Garden Leader, Event support
Tondela Myles	Event support
Tracey Lo	Research
Vicky Baker	Cambie Garden Leader
Yisun Chang	Event support
Yeo Jeong Lim	Event Support

Interns

SPEC would like to give special thanks our fantastic interns this year:

Kyle Mitchell

With support from YWCA's Eco-Internship program, SPEC was fortunate to work with Kyle Mitchell this summer. Hired as an Office Systems Transformation Intern, Kyle moved and rebuilt our entire website. As a result of Kyle's diligence and devotion to tackle any computer task, SPEC is now enjoying a simplified management system for donations, membership, newsletters and events. Kyle's commitment to SPEC expanded well beyond his internship; hence we thank him gratefully for the hours he donated to us in making our communications operations processes smoother.



Ruth Legg, YiSun Chang, Kyle Mitchell & Jordan Fowler

Marnie Newell

Project and Outreach Coordinator Marnie Newell joined SPEC as a YEIP intern in October of 2009. She has been an amazing addition to our staff team at SPEC. Not only has she been working alongside Catriona Gordon on the School Gardens Project but she has also taken an active role as our newsletter editor, outreach coordinator, volunteer liaison, and rooftop garden coordinator. We were happy to offer Marnie a part-time position when her internship finished this summer. She is active working with our community partners in engaging citizens to build healthier cities.

Ruth Legg

With the support of the Human Resource and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), SPEC hired Ruth Legg through the Canadian Summer Job program as a marketing intern this summer. During the short summer months at SPEC, Ruth brought her skills and experience



on marketing for VANOC to our organization. During her time with us she created an easy-to-implement-marketing strategy for our workshops and events, assisted with grant applications and secured membership benefits for our members.

Yi-Sun Chang

Yi-Sun, a Korean language inter from the INTERNeX international exchange, offered SPEC a wide range of administrative support during her six-week internship with us. With a knack for graphic design and Excel, she focused on workshop poster design, compiling workshop data for evaluation, and assisted with event preparation.

Board of Directors 2010

Joanna Robinson –President
Carole Christopher–Vice President
Tara Moreau –Vice President
Alicia Embree –Secretary
Jason Fast –Treasurer
Jess Metter –Director
Dan Rogers -Director
Larry Fast - Director
Gerry Thorne - Director
Paul Hundal - Director
Rob Baxter - Director
Brent Mansfield - Director
Caitlin Dorward - Director
Ross Moster –Director



A very fond farewell to...

Board members Paul Hundal, Larry Fast, Alicia Embree, Jason Fast, and Brent Mansfield who are leaving SPEC to explore new corners of the world, and spend more time with their families. Three Directors who joined the SPEC board in 2009 are moving on to other adventures in life;

Operations Manager Ilse Sarady, School Gardens Coordinator Catriona Gordon, Outreach and Project Facilitator Marnie Newell, Treasurer Ross Moster, Director Caitlin Dorward, Vice President Carole Christopher, and Secretary Leane de Laigue.

Alicia Embree was wooed away by Haida Gwaii. She went to work on a small farm over the summer and has moved there for the indefinite future. We're sorry to see her go but excited by this new adventure in her life.

Jason Fast, who served as SPEC Treasurer for most of 2010 decided to join another Board with a mission that spoke directly to his deepest volunteer interests.

Brent Mansfield, was recruited as a new Co-Chair of the Vancouver Food Policy Council, a challenging volunteer commitment which, along with his regular job, his work as a master's student at UBC, and his staff role on a five year University Grant simply consumed all his time.

Two other directors, **Larry Fast** and **Paul Hundal** are 'old-timers' on the Board;



Larry has been with us since 2004. He served as Treasurer for some of those years and in other executive roles for most of his tenure on the Board.

Paul Hundal's longstanding and outstanding contribution to SPEC deserves special recognition. Paul, who joined the SPEC Board in 1991, was the longest serving Director of the current Board. He served as SPEC president from 1994 to 1997 and contributed to many campaigns over the years. Perhaps his most publically recognized contribution was spearheading the successful campaign to protect the GVRD/Metro's drinking water, by stopping the logging in our watershed.

We will miss you all as it's been a true pleasure working with each of you. We wish you the very best for the future and hope to see you around the SPEC building soon!

And a warm welcome to...

Leane de Laigue, who was first introduced to SPEC as an Ecology teacher at Kits High School, working together with SPEC's Catriona Gordon on the Schools Gardens Project. With a background in education and marketing, Leane joins the Board to work on marketing and as our new secretary.

Patrick McGuiness brings his knowledge and expertise in waste issues from managing a large scale waste and recycling system at the Vancouver International Airport, to his position as Chair for the Waste Committee. He also holds a masters of Arts in Environmental Education and Communication.

And a warm welcome back to...

Sara Blenkhorn who left the SPEC Board three years ago to pursue further education and work experience in Europe. She has recently returned to Vancouver and delighted us with her wish to resume her role as a SPEC director and bringing with her a wealth of experience in the field of strategic planning, business advisory services, and project and team management.

Funders and Major Donors

SPEC like to thank our generous funders, major donors and in-kind donors for supporting our organization in 2010.

Funders

- Kyjormac Inc
- City of Vancouver
- HRSDC –Canada Summer Jobs
- YWCA –Youth Eco Internship Program
- Vancouver Foundation, in collaboration with the Vancouver Food Policy Council



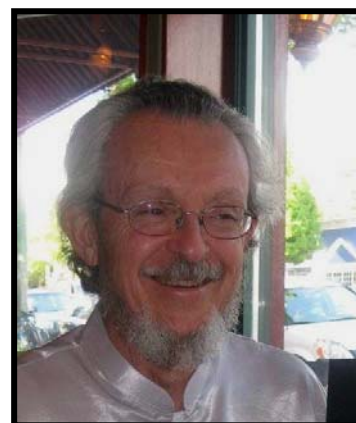
In-Kind Donors

A heartfelt thank you to all the businesses that supported our 40th anniversary and our campaign work this year! A big thank you to:

West Coast Seeds, Home Depot, Home Hardware, LinxPrint, Trafalgar Bistro, Sweet Obsession, Cibo Tattoria, Rocky Mountain Flatbread, Abby Produce, West Island Herb Farm, En Mass Media, Eco-packaging, Aspenware, Costco, Paradise Wine Ranch, Green Earth Organics, International Year of the Tiger Foundation, Cliffhanger, Saturna Island Family Estate Winery, River Bend Winery and Canadian Hazlenut Inc.

Major Donors

In June, Rick Pollay -a long standing SPEC member decided that he, in lieu of gifts for his 70th birthday, wanted his friends to join SPEC. He also offered to match all individual donations to the organization that month. Thanks to Rick and all our SPEC supporters who gave ten to hundreds of dollars, we raised \$13,000 towards our campaigns.



Financial highlights

While the funding climate has continued to be unfriendly toward non-profit organizations this year, SPEC has managed to coast along and continued to run our projects on minimal resources. With the Provincial Gaming Grants unavailable to environmental non-profits for two consecutive years, the competition for available grants has increased. A number of grants that SPEC applied for were not forthcoming; hence we relied more than ever on our members and donors to provide income for our campaigns. Thanks to the generous offer of a matching grant, SPEC managed to continue to fund staff for the School Gardens Project. However, despite generous contributions from our supporters, and our efforts on cutting our expenses, we end our year with a deficit of \$4,320.

INCOME STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 2009 - AUGUST 2010		
INCOME - Source	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Government	6,675	6.7
Donations & Memberships	42,107	42.3
Grants (Foundations)	15,000	15.1
Earned Income	34,991	35.2
Miscellaneous Income	600	0.6
Total (\$)	99,373	



EXPENSES	Amount (\$)	% of Total
Staff & Contractors	60,803	59.7
Office Expenses	15,344	14.8
Facilities	14,772	14.3
Program Expenses (not incl staff)	12,720	12
Total (\$)	103,639	
Net Income (\$)	- 4,320	

Memberships and Membership benefits

In addition to supporting a worthy cause, SPEC works to provide our members with extra benefits. Starting this past year, SPEC members receive regular member update emails, providing them with campaign and event updates to help our community to stay current on environmental issues in the Lower Mainland. Members also receive discounts at participating businesses, making it easier to adapt an environmentally friendly lifestyle. SPEC would like to thank and acknowledge the following business for providing membership benefits:

Dizzy Cycles, Evolved Energy Solutions, Art Knapp Plantland, Trafalgar Bistro, The Bike Doctor.



"I really like that SPEC takes the big issues and brings them right down to the grassroots level - things that we can learn and apply to our own lives in doing our part for the environment. For me, it started with a small act of being able to recycle my batteries properly." David Lee, SPEC Member since 2009.

Join SPEC!

Did you know that SPEC is the BC oldest environmental organization? SPEC has served the Lower Mainland for 40 years. With your help we'll do forty more!

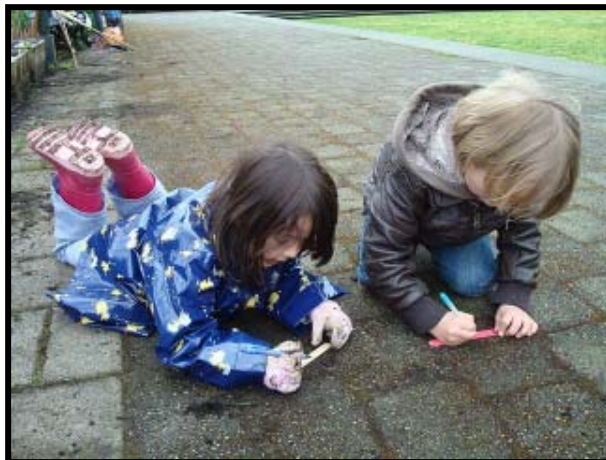
SPEC is the only BC organization focused on the wide-range of environmental issues arising out of urban living.



Our outstanding Board of Directors gives not only their volunteer time but are also monthly donors. Will you join them and support our organization with a monthly donation? See www.spec.bc.ca/monthly for more information on how to become a donor. For the sheer joy of membership, watch this engaging [video](#) of SPEC's work.

Some of our most outstanding historical work:

- Fostered over 100 other environmental groups! (including Green Peace)
- Led the first anti-pollution rally in Western Canada in 1969
- Started the first recycling depot in Canada in late 1960's
- Led opposition to oil tanker traffic along the West Coast resulting in a moratorium in 1971.
- Staffed an energy demonstration centre since 1981
- Led the campaign to protect the local watershed in the 1990's
- Organized the first "Leave Your Car Home Day" in 1990.
- In addition to work described above, more recently SPEC:
- Led the campaign to ban pesticides in Vancouver and regionally earlier this decade
- Co-founded ALR-PEC for the protection of the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Led 2008-09 campaign "Better Transit, Not Freeways" opposing the Gateway highway expansion project.
- Held a 2005 design contest "All Aboard the Arbutus Corridor" for public input on the future of the Arbutus Corridor
- Worked with City Planners to design Vancouver City Hall Community Gardens
- Conducted research on the best organic fertilizers



Join SPEC and help us continue to work for a Healthy Urban Environment!

