

SPEC ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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*Practical Solutions
for Sustainable
Cities*

ABOUT US

SPEC builds capacity within local communities to make behaviour changes that advance urban sustainability. SPEC also promotes policies that enhance resilience and protect our environment for present and future generations. Our focus is to develop practical solutions through education, outreach, advocacy, and research, with the help of the following committees and initiatives.

Energy & Transportation Committee (p. 16)

- ▶ Promotes energy conservation and the use of renewable energy
- ▶ Advocates for sustainable transportation

Food & Environment Committee (p. 20)

- ▶ Helps build a more sustainable and resilient local food system
- ▶ Helps protect our brown, green, and blue spaces

Zero Waste Committee (p. 28)

- ▶ Promotes practices that lead to waste reduction

Sustainability for Businesses (p. 30)

- ▶ Helps businesses and organizations engage in activities that incorporate sustainability principles

Founded in 1969, the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) is a non-profit charitable organization that addresses environmental issues in British Columbia, with a particular focus on urban communities. We achieve our goals through partnerships with other community organizations and with the support of our members, donors, staff, sponsors, and volunteers.



LETTER FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

For SPEC, 2015 was a very good year and, in the words of one director, 2016 will be great! We're delighted to be in the newly renovated Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, further cementing our relationship with this outstanding community partner.

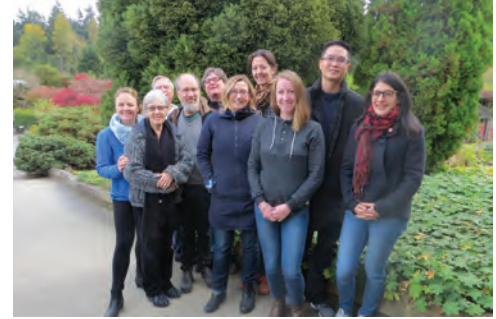
On April 23, we celebrated our 45th anniversary with a large and successful party that featured "SPEC Through the Ages," an illustrated history of SPEC campaigns, programs, and projects also found at www.spec.bc.ca/what-we-do. We had also compiled a list of over 100 people from the 1969-99 SPEC era and successfully contacted about half of them. Thirty "old timers" then joined the celebration to remember and reconnect and were inspired by the energy and commitment of the present generation. Current and new volunteers were, in turn, inspired by the venerable history of past decades.

In mid-year, we combined six areas of work into three committees, offering more coherence and fewer meetings: Energy & Transportation, Food & Environment (combining land & water with food), and Zero Waste.

In August, Rob Baxter stepped down and Carole Christopher stepped in as President. In November, we promoted Oliver Lane to Executive Director.

Visionary ideas and energy are bubbling up and the board is committed to three new projects in 2016:

- ▶ **Complete a process of reviewing our vision, mandate, and working plan to take us into the 50th Anniversary in 2019.**
- ▶ **Nurture a SPEC Elders Circle to advise the board and to develop an Environmental Elders Engagement Initiative program that will support seniors to reclaim their elder wisdom role and help society come to grips with our climate legacy.**
- ▶ **Dismantle our own mental legacy of colonization that inflicts so much pain on First Nations in Canada. The Board has committed to study reconciliation materials over the next 12-18 months and will assess how to employ this knowledge in relation to First Nations in the future.**



We end the year on the optimism of an international agreement to limit global temperature rise to 2°C. To be sure, that is not ambitious enough to forestall serious consequences. But, at last, we are realizing the tremendous opportunity to rebuild our energy infrastructure in a manner that is sustainable and respectful of future generations. Much work lies ahead for governments and civil society to make our COP 21 (Paris conference) commitments a reality. SPEC's work is clear, and we invite you to be part of this as a member/donor/volunteer—whatever form works best for you. Your support guarantees SPEC can continue to work for you in the community.

SPEC HIGHLIGHTS 2015



School Gardens Program delivered
272 food garden lessons to
68 classrooms in
11 schools across Vancouver,
 reaching over **1,600** students.



First video episode of SPEC's
Zero Fossil Fuels Campaign
 was presented



Over **130** adults participated in
 SPEC's **Urban Farmer Field
 School** classes and **Go Solar**
 tours



Over **3,500** hours donated to SPEC
 by volunteers in our community.

Launched, in collaboration with
 leaders of the waste management
 industry, the first edition of the
**Vancouver Master Recycler
 Program**, a zero waste school
 for **27** adult participants.



Co-hosted **13 weekly food markets**
 with Kitsilano Neighbourhood House,
 which connected local food growers
 and food makers to local consumers,
 and contributed over **\$22,000** to
 Vancouver's green economy.



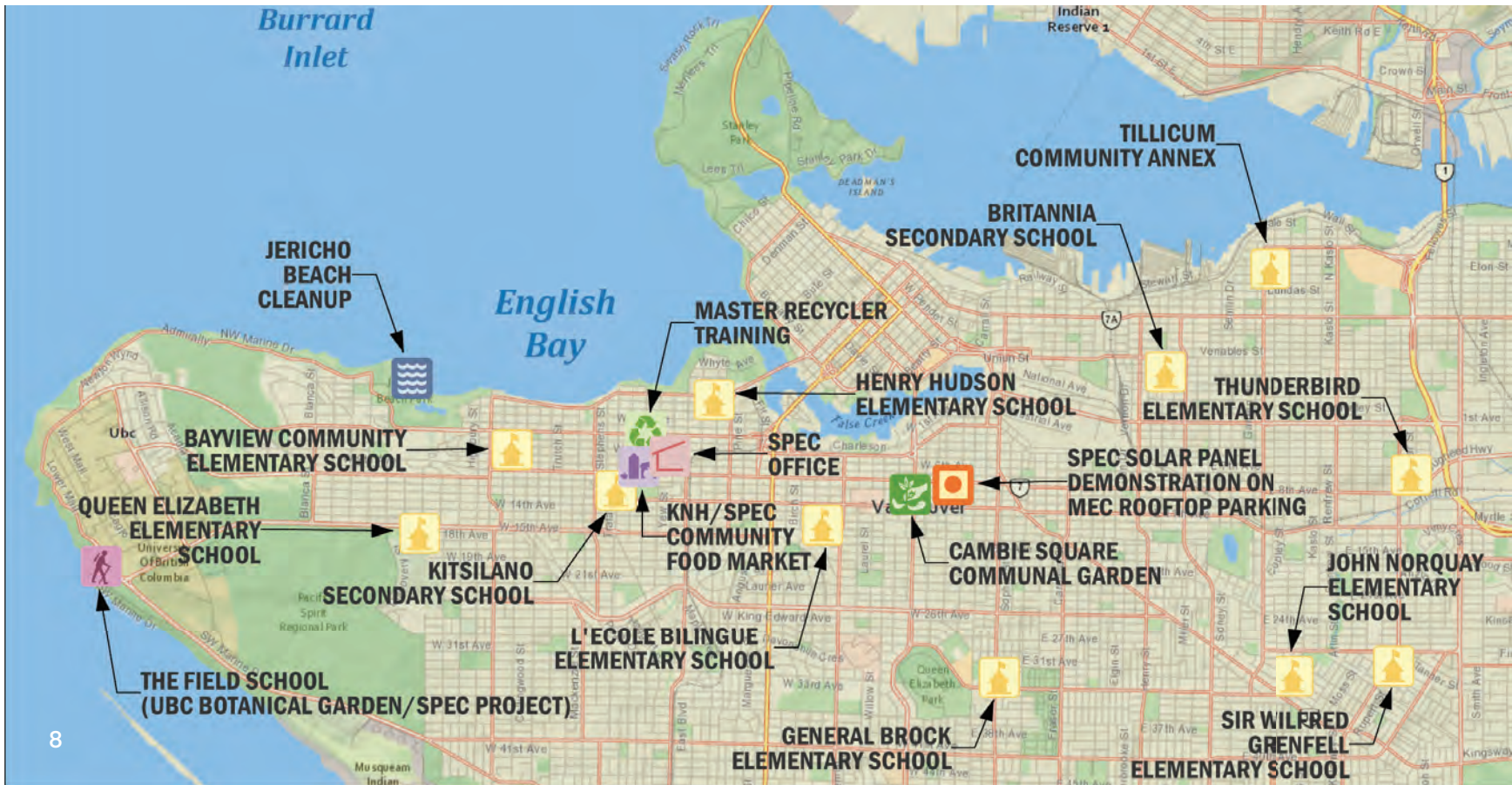
Launched the pilot year for the
**Sustainable Communities Field
 School** program, in partnership with the
 UBC Botanical Garden, in which staff from
5 Vancouver businesses and community
 organizations participated in outdoor team
 building sustainability sessions.



ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS 40,000 page views of SPEC's website,
 from **10,000** different users in 2015 * **3,000** people reached with
 SPECTrum, our monthly newsletter * **1,300** followers on Facebook and
720 on Twitter * **23,000** total visits to our SPEC Demonstration Gar-
 dens blog—specgardens.blogspot.ca * **5,800** total visits to our SPEC
 School Gardens blog—specschoolgardensproject.blogspot.ca

SPEC IN THE CITY

In 2015, SPEC cultivated 14 community food markets, 11 school gardens, 1 beach clean up, 1 communal food garden, and 1 solar power installation. We delivered dozens of workshops, classes and tours on topics related to food, energy, waste and water, engaging children, youth, adults, and businesses in sustainability.



A group of people, including adults and children, are gathered on a metal mesh walkway high above the forest floor. The walkway is surrounded by dense green foliage and tall trees. Some people are looking at each other, while others are taking photos. A large tree trunk is prominent in the center. The scene is set in a lush forest with some autumn-colored leaves visible in the background.

THE SPEC FAMILY



COMMUNITY STARS OF 2015

With the help of their time, energy, ideas, hard work, and financial support, SPEC and its family continues to thrive.

As the bedrock of financial security for SPEC, donor contributions allow us to plan and carry out our important activities. We feel your support on a daily basis, and it's impossible to overstate how much that means to us. A big thank you to all of our donors. To acknowledge our appreciation for the variety of ways people give, when people make a donation, they will have the option to be listed in our future annual report, as Monthly Donors, Annual Donors \$500-\$1,500, Annual Donors \$250-\$499, or Annual Donors \$20-\$249.

This year we pay special tribute to the following donors, the **Acme Delivery Company** and the **Millard & Gow-Jarrett Family**, who made significant contributions to SPEC; in the fall, several of our monthly donors stepped forward to put together a special matching fund for our Fall Fundraising Drive; and among our annual donors, some people also gave their time and talents to special board projects. We're especially grateful to **Chloe Gow-Jarrett** for leading us in a process of clarifying and renewing our vision, mission, and organizational values as we move towards a strategic plan to guide us to our 50th Anniversary in 2019 and beyond.



We'd like to give special recognition to four SPEC Board members who have served at least a decade: Carole Christopher, Dan Rogers, Rob Baxter, and Tara Moreau. All have served terms as SPEC President and have given legions of support in a variety of other ways that are invaluable to the board. We thank them for their leadership.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015

Carole Christopher	President
Rob Baxter	Past President
Kiersten Enemark	Secretary
Shawn Weber	Treasurer
Dan Rogers	Interim Treasurer
Art Bomke	Director
Dominic Maggiolo	Director
Ivan Cheung	Director
Jessica Frank	Director
Kate Menzies	Director
Tara Moreau	Director
Tova Plashkes	Director



Thank you to Dominic Maggiolo, Rob Baxter, and Shawn Weber for their contributions to the Board in 2015. Rob also stepped down as Chair of the Energy Committee but will continue to share his expertise with them. We wish Dominic, Rob, and Shawn all the best.



Special Thanks to Carole, Dan, Rob, and Tara for their many years of hard work and service to the SPEC Board!

STAFF



OLIVER LANE
Executive Director

Oliver was appointed ED in November. He has been with us for three years and has quickly grown into the substantially increased responsibilities of an ED. With increased staff support in the office, Oliver will devote more time to oversight, support for committees, and fund development. We're excited and looking forward very much to his leadership and guidance.



NIKOO BOROUMAND
School Garden Coordinator

This was Nikoo's second year as SPEC's School Garden Coordinator. She is greatly loved by the children and admired by teachers, administrators, and parents engaged with the program.



KARLA OLSON
Operations Assistant

Karla was hired in October to be our Operations Assistant. We welcome Karla who will be supporting SPEC in the areas of communications, administration, and outreach.

SPEC INTERNS

Additionally, in 2015 we had three interns working on specific projects over the summer:
Michelle Zhong Westside Community Food Market and Urban Farmer Field School
Jacqueline Craig Climate Change workshops and other outreach initiatives
Emily Yungwirth School Gardens Program

VOLUNTEERS

SPEC is largely a volunteer run organization. Due to their immense and amazing work, they, along with members of the board, donated over 3,500 hours to SPEC. Devoted volunteers guide and carry out the work projects of our committees and assist in a variety of office/fundraising activities that allow us to do our SPECTacular work with a surprisingly small amount of money.

- **Admin, Fund Development, and Communication Volunteers:** Amelia Hohenadel, Anastasia Koutalianos, Carey Lee, Carole Christopher, Dan Rogers, Dawn Allen, Emelie Crumbaker, Jessica Frank, Karl Lam, Kate Menzies, Kyle Hunter, Lisa Rilkoff, Margaret Miller, and Nicole Tenison
- **Energy & Transportation Committee:** Amelia Hohenadel, Bob Dynes, Carey Ditmars, Dorothy Bootle, Elizabeth Mosier, Emily Chan, Emmanuelle Davis, Garth Jones, Ivan Cheung, Jacqueline Craig, Kaveh Esmaeili, Maïa Béragère, Mary Cleaver, Oliver Lane, Rob Baxter, Rola Nasreddine, Ruth Briggs, Sara Blenkhorn, Stephanie Von Dehn, Sukn Gill, Suzanne Goldberg, Tara Chandra, Teddy Courteaux, Thomas Williams, Xavier Deschênes-Philion.

Leadership Team: Emmanuelle and Tara

- **Food & Environment Committee:** Art Bomke, Carole Christopher, Gaik Beng Khoo, Kate Menzies, Nikoo Boroumand, Oliver Lane, and Tara Moreau.

Leadership Team: Art, Kate, and Tara

- **Zero Waste Committee:** Addison Lanier, Angie Nicolas, Carol Cohen, Caroline Coudreau, Daniel Rotman, Derek Leung, Emily McGill, Eyal Lebel, Ivan Cheung, Jacquie Rolston, Maya Tatuch, Richard Drake, and Syd Portner.

Leadership Team: Angie, Daniel, Emily, and Eyal

- **Sustainability for Businesses Team:** Tara Moreau (UBC Botanical Garden / SPEC), Oliver Lane (SPEC), and Sara Blenkhorn (Future Strategies)

Acknowledgement: Thank you to all the other volunteers and community members that helped out at our outreach events, Westside Community Food Market, beach cleanups, and our 45th anniversary party.



Above: Zero Waste Committee

Below: Energy and Transportation Committee

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

SPEC is a collaborative organization. Internally, we work within and across our theme committees. Externally, we build partnerships that bring community resources together to pursue local sustainability. To celebrate our community partnerships, we would like to express our appreciation to our partners and financial supporters for working with us.

Please join us in giving a SPEctacular thank you to the following organizations:

Ace Accounting and Tax Services	John Norquay Elementary School	UBC Botanical Garden
Acme Delivery Company	parent volunteers	UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems –
Banyen Books & Sound	Kitsilano Neighbourhood House	TEGS
Brock Junction After-School Care Program	Kiwassa Neighbourhood House	UBC Faculty of Psychology
BC Hydro	Luluelmon Athletica - the metta movement	UBC - IRES
Bullfrog Power	Metro Vancouver	Vancity
City of Vancouver	Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC)	Vancouver Food Policy Council
C & C BSI Holdings Ltd	Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions	Vancouver Foundation
David Suzuki Foundation	(PICS)	Vancouver School Food Network (VSNF)
Earth Island Institute	Pollination Project	Vancouver Renewable Energy Coop
Future Strategies	Redemption Church	Vancouver School Board
Gaia Green	Simon Fraser University	Vancouver Schools
Government of British Columbia	Sitka Foundation	Village Vancouver
Government of Canada	Surfrider Foundation	West Coast Seeds
Hamber Foundation	TD Friends of the Environment	Whole Foods Market: Kitsilano and
Home Depot	Foundation	Robson stores
HSBC Canada	Telus	Whole Kids Foundation
Hudson Out-Of-School Care	Thunderbird After-School Care Program	



PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS 2015

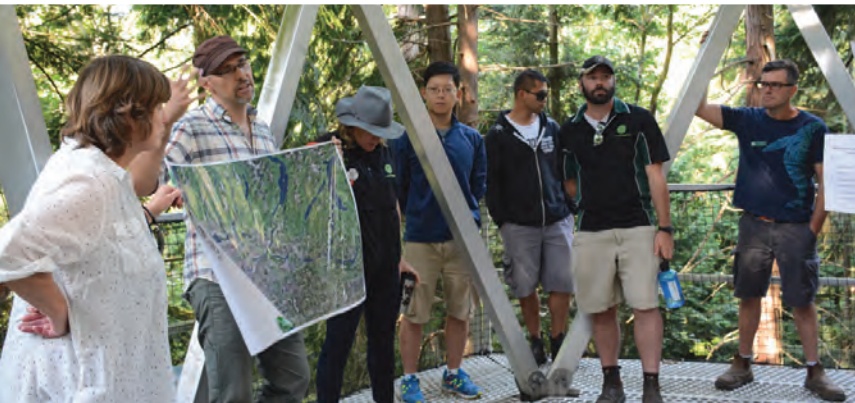


Energy & Transportation Committee **16**

Food & Environment Committee **20**

Zero Waste Committee **28**

Sustainability for Businesses **30**



PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS 2015

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS
IN THE COMMUNITY,
ACTION ON THE GROUND



ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

— COMMITTEE MEMBERS —

Amelia Hohenadel, Bob Dynes, Carey Ditmars, Dorothy Bootle, Elizabeth Mosier, Emily Chan, Emmanuelle Davis, Garth Jones, Ivan Cheung, Jacqueline Craig, Kaveh Esmaeili, Maïa Bérangère, Mary Cleaver, Oliver Lane, Rob Baxter, Rola Nasreddine, Ruth Briggs, Sara Blenkhorn, Stephanie Von Dehn, Sukn Gill, Suzanne Goldberg, Tara Chandra, Teddy Courteaux, Thomas Williams, & Xavier Deschênes-Philon

— LEADERSHIP TEAM —

Emmanuelle and Tara



COMMUNITY SUPPORT: A big thank you to BC Hydro, Bullfrog Power, Earth Island Institute, Hamber Foundation, HSBC Canada, MEC, Pollination Project, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Vancouver Renewable Energy Cooperative for funding and supporting the Zero Fossil Fuels Campaign, the Go Solar Tours and the Climate Change Workshops at School.



PLANS FOR 2016: The Energy Committee created an action plan that includes six key objectives: communication, networking, zero fossil fuels, leading edge research, grants research, and evaluation.

One of our goals is to expand our networks with other environmental organizations, to build relationships for future collaboration on projects and to identify key influencers to submit proposals. We are also developing our strategies to further enhance and promote the Zero Fossil Fuels campaign, with the aim of making concrete proposals that can reduce 52% of natural gas in buildings and 36% of gas light vehicles, as well as help lead cities and communities toward a lower energy and carbon footprint.

Committee members are looking into new and existing technologies used around the world that could be promoted in Vancouver. New smart thermostats are one way to reduce energy usage in our homes. Members are currently determining which technology is best and trying to find a way to get them into more Vancouver homes. The team is also researching ways that our energy sources can be diversified by the addition of wind or geothermal electrical sources.



CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

FACILITATION TEAM: Amelia Hohenadel, Jacqueline Craig, Liz Mosier, Stephanie Von Dehn, and Thomas Williams

PURPOSE: During this two-hour workshop, students learn about the science of climate change and existing solutions. Students engage in a group decision-making process in which they must prioritize strategies and actions to reduce carbon emissions in their community or city. The outcome is a deeper understanding of why we need to cut carbon emissions, how we can achieve emissions reductions locally and globally, and what are the opportunities, challenges, and trade-offs involved in group decision-making processes.

HIGHLIGHTS: 10 workshops, with 260 student participants, presented at Kitsilano Secondary, Killarney Secondary, Templeton Secondary, and Point Gray Secondary



GO SOLAR TOURS

TEAM: Rob Baxter and Elizabeth Mosier ran the 2015 series with support from Vancouver Renewable Energy Cooperative members and SPEC admin and interns. The format for the program was first piloted in 2014.

PURPOSE: Educate the public on solar energy.

HIGHLIGHTS:

5 tours were run from April to August

80 people in total participated

THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE TOURS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Myths and realities of solar energy in BC
- ▶ Identifying the different types of solar energy systems
- ▶ Components that make up common solar energy systems
- ▶ Costs and savings of these systems
- ▶ Making your home/building solar ready
- ▶ How solar energy systems are integrated into a building
- ▶ How to move away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy

“What I liked best about the tour was meeting people with common interests.

“My aha moment was learning that the costs of solar panels are only 20–30% of start-up costs.

— Program Participants, Go Solar Tours



ZERO FOSSIL FUELS CAMPAIGN

TEAM: Amelia Hohenadel, Bob Dynes, Carey Ditmars, Dorothy Bootle, Elizabeth Mosier, Emily Chan, Emmanuelle Davis, Garth Jones, Ivan Cheung, Jacqueline Craig, Maïa Bérangère, Mary Cleaver, Oliver Lane, Rob Baxter, Rola Nasreddine, Ruth Briggs, Sara Blenkhorn, Stephanie Von Dehn, Sukn Gill, Suzanne Goldberg, Tara Chandra, Teddy Courteaux, Thomas Williams

PURPOSE: The Campaign highlights practical solutions, both technological and behavioral, that are already widely used around the world to eliminate the need for fossil fuels. By raising awareness and educating people about the issues related to fossil fuel in our community, we support 100% renewable energy and greatly diversified transportation options in our city and region.



ACTIVITIES: The award winning video, SPEC's Zero Fossil Fuels Campaign—Episode 1*, focuses on North Vancouver resident, Doug Horn, who has taken major energy conservation steps at home to source all his electricity from on-site renewable sources. The episode highlights the technology Doug has incorporated into his home, such as PV solar panels, as well as behavioral changes he has made to conserve energy. Despite the changes, Doug lives in a typical home with all the amenities of modern day living. His story showcases one aspect of living a zero fossil fuel lifestyle.

This video is a summary of a longer episode and the first in a series of episodes showcasing local residents taking significant steps to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels.

*Special thanks to Emily Chan who spearheaded the production of this award winning video for the Zero Fossil Fuels Campaign.

HIGHLIGHTS:

1 of 5 BC Hydro Community Champion contest winners with a prize of **\$10,000**

YOUTUBE LINK:

<https://goo.gl/yO1PKF>

FOOD & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

— COMMITTEE MEMBERS —

Art Bomke, Carole Christopher,
Gaik Beng Khoo, Kate Menzies,
Nikoo Boroumand, Oliver Lane,
& Tara Moreau

— LEADERSHIP TEAM —

Art, Kate, and Tara



CAMBIE SQUARE COMMUNAL GARDEN

TEAM: Andrea Sherrington, Hisayo Saito, Ima Moreno, Leanna Knowles, Michelle Wang, Monica Dempsy, Nikoo Boroumand, Paris Chen, and Sybrena Albright

COORDINATOR: Gaik Beng Khoo

ACTIVITIES: We had a good start to this year's season, recruiting 10 new volunteers to our team who met regularly on Sunday mornings to plant, tend, and harvest. We collectively volunteered 600 hours over the year. We grew a variety of cool and warmer season vegetables, along with herbs and flowers. The drought lessened our tomato and raspberry yield compared to last year despite more frequent watering by volunteers.

We received a Greenest City Neighbourhood Small Grant to create a pollinator corridor in our garden, and we gave a workshop on building bird houses and bee condos. The workshop was full and well-received, with everyone taking home either a bird box or a bee condo for their residence. Seeds were donated by Westcoast Seeds.

PLANS FOR 2016: The garden will start up again in February when we'll meet to plan for the next season. It's nearly a decade since this garden began and some general repairs or replacement of garden boxes and trellises are needed. We'll be looking for funds or in kind donations to get lumber and then to plan a building party. New volunteers are most welcome.

CONNECT WITH US! specgardens.blogspot.ca | cambiesqvol@gmail.com



SPEC SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAM

STAFF: Nikoo Boroumand

PURPOSE: This program connects children with their food, each other, nature, and their community, by integrating gardening and healthy food education into the regular classroom curriculum. We believe that school gardens inspire and empower the next generation to contribute to healthier and more sustainable communities.

ACTIVITIES: Now in its eighth year, the program has expanded from 8 Vancouver schools to 11, reaching over 1600 students. During the 2014/15 school year, we delivered 272 garden, nutrition, composting, and other related lessons to 68 classrooms. In June 2015, six harvest par-

ties were held at the schools to celebrate the bounty from their school gardens.

This year we also obtained funding to print and distribute copies of our garden curriculum package, called Green Thumbs at School: SPEC Food Garden Lesson Book, to our partnering schools. We hope this information will support teachers to deliver garden-related lessons to their classrooms directly. This curriculum is also accessible to the public through the SPEC website.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES 2014/15:

During the school year, a pre- and post-garden lesson survey was conducted in some of the classrooms to measure how much students learned and how much

their attitudes towards healthy food had changed, as a result of our collaboration. The results showed that students, who obtain regular food and garden lessons throughout the year, have an improved understanding of food literacy, gardening, and healthy food, as well as improved attitudes towards healthy eating.

“ I like the school garden because I like to take care of plants and watch them grow.

— Grade 4 student, John Norquay Elementary School



“ This is my second school year as part of the SPEC School Gardens Program. Nikoo has many fun and informative lessons that fit perfectly into our science curriculum. My students look forward to our garden activities because they can see firsthand what they have grown themselves. They can be proud to say that they were a part of building this exciting school community garden. Thank you all for this opportunity.

— Cathy Walls, Teacher, Henry Hudson Elementary School

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: SPEC brings food and garden education to the following schools:

- ▶ Bayview Community School
- ▶ Britannia Secondary School (pilot in the 2015/16 school year)
- ▶ General Brock Elementary
- ▶ Henry Hudson Elementary School
- ▶ John Norquay Elementary (new in the 2014/15 school year)
- ▶ Kitsilano Secondary School
- ▶ L'Ecole Bilingue
- ▶ Queen Elizabeth Elementary
- ▶ Sir Wilfred Grenfell Community School
- ▶ Thunderbird Elementary
- ▶ Tillicum Community Annex (pilot in the 2015/16 school year)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Our program also helped school gardens to remain vibrant and growing through the summer months. Students from several school day-cares helped to maintain the gardens and enjoyed the bounty from the harvest. Their achievements would not have been possible without the work of our summer intern, Emily Yungwirth.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: SPEC volunteers and staff are fortunate to work alongside an amazing community of school garden champions, including dedicated parents, support staff, teachers, and principals at our partnering schools; UBC's Think and Eat Green @ Schools Program; the Vancouver School Food Network (VSFN);



“ I like the school garden because you get to eat the vegetables when they are fully grown. We share every plant with the entire school.

— Grade 3 student, John Norquay Elementary School

Vancouver School Board; Kiwassa Neighbourhood House; Redemption Church; Brock Junction After-School Care Program; Thunderbird After-School Care Program; and Hudson Out-Of-School Care.

FUNDING SUPPORT: We would like to thank the funders that supported SPEC's School Gardens Program:

- ▶ Acme Delivery Company
- ▶ BC Gaming Community Grant
- ▶ BC Hydro Community Champions Program
- ▶ Canada Summer Jobs Grant (Fed. Gov)
- ▶ Canadian Tire (Bentall St.)
- ▶ Gaia Green Products Ltd.
- ▶ Home Depot

- ▶ Lululemon Athletica – the metta movement
- ▶ Millard & Gow-Jarrett Family
- ▶ School parents
- ▶ SPEC individual donors
- ▶ TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- ▶ Telus
- ▶ UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems: Think & Eat Green @ School
- ▶ UBC Botanical Garden
- ▶ West Coast Seeds
- ▶ Whole Foods Market
- ▶ Whole Kids Foundation

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specschoolgardensproject.blogspot.ca
[instagram.com/specschoolgardens](https://www.instagram.com/specschoolgardens)





GREEN THUMBS AT SCHOOL:
SPEC FOOD GARDEN LESSON BOOK



PLANS FOR 2015/16: SPEC has committed to continue the gardening program with the three newest schools, all identified as “high needs schools” in Vancouver. We are aiming at employing an additional teacher in order to have the capacity to respond to the growing demand for school gardens, particularly in high needs schools. We would like to respond to every classroom in every school that wants to bring food and garden education to their students. We require additional funding to support this new position and appreciate your help in doing that.

HIGHLIGHTS:

16 lesson topics offered
44 garden beds grown
68 teachers and classrooms involved
272 lessons taught
1632 students involved

“SPEC has gone above and beyond our expectations in assisting us with our food garden. Over the dry summer months, SPEC provided an intern to assist in watering and planting more seeds in our garden. SPEC also gave us a copy of their Food Garden Lesson Book, which is an excellent resource for teachers to use with their classes. We are very grateful to be one of the schools working with SPEC!”

— Valeria Kao, Parent, John Norquay Elementary School



KNH & SPEC WESTSIDE COMMUNITY FOOD MARKET

VOLUNTEERS: Amelia Hohenadel, Belinda Yang, Charlie Zhu, Chris Kay, Cole Dudley, Erik Andersen, Greg Jung, Jacqueline Craig, Katherine Allen, Keelih Yu, Kimmy Sy, Margaret Miller, Pauline Helmke, Tabitha Brubacher, Sally Speers, Sarah Chu, and Sean Joe.

STAFF: Oliver Lane, Sarah Lone (Kits House), and Michelle Zhong

ACTIVITIES: For five years, Kits House and SPEC have collaborated to organize the West Side Community Market. The goal of the market is to increase community access to local food, growers, and food makers. Every Thursday from 3–7 PM, (July through

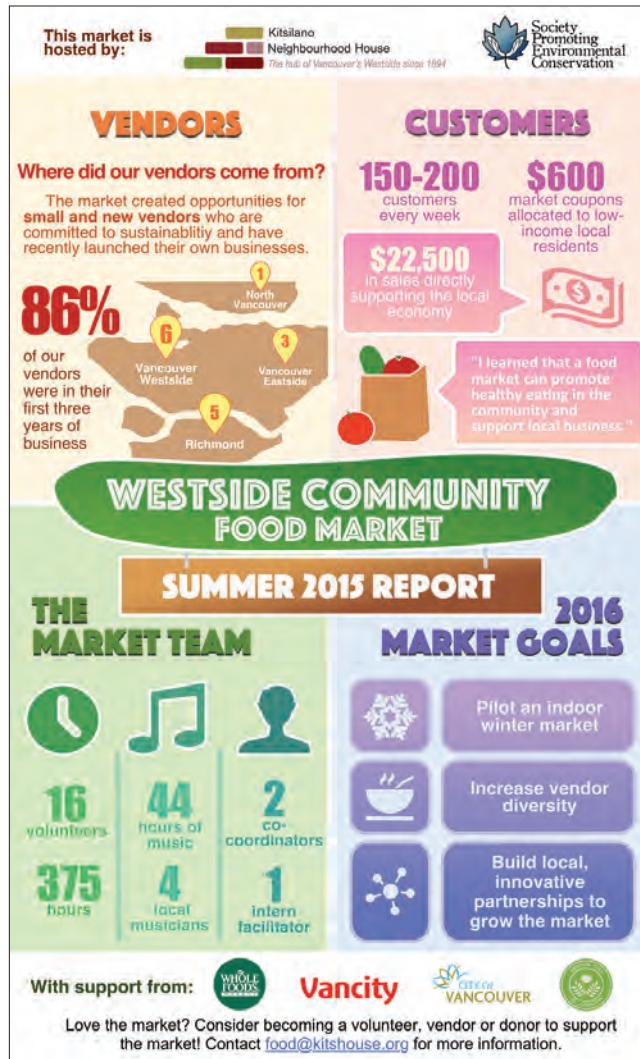


September) the corner of 7th Ave and Vine in Kitsilano was alive with music, local produce, baked goods, roasted nuts, cajeta (Mexican style caramel) and more. Every week, 120–200 customers, 14 vendors and several community organizations, and artists made the summer market a colourful spot for connecting, tasting, and learning.

As a small-scale public farmers' market, it supported the local economy, generating over \$22,000 in revenues for vendors (up 10% from last year). As in previous years, we offered coupons (about \$600) to support access to local food for families with low incomes.

FUNDERS: Thank you to the City of Vancouver and Vancity for funding the market and to Whole Foods Market Kitsilano for donating coffee, tea, and fruit for lemonades for market visitors, vendors, and volunteers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Thank you also to all our vendors, who worked hard to offer their best products to our community, and to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House for partnering with us to run this great program. A big thank you goes to this season's volunteer team and staff, as well as to our community organizations and members.



2015 VENDORS AND PRODUCT:

Cherry Lane Farms	Produce
Cherry on a Bike	Baked Goods
Edible Treasurz	Roasted Almonds and Salad Dressings
Frisch Community Urban Farms	Produce
The Good Loaf	Bread
Green Gardens	Produce
J'adore les Macarons	Macarons
Judith Jelly	Black Currant Jelly
The Lemon Square	Baked Goods
Nut Hut	Nuts
Original Mexican Gourmet	Mexican Style Caramel, Cajeta
Sea Tilth	Produce
Shady Acre Farm	Produce
Yummy Yards	Produce

HIGHLIGHTS:

13 weekly markets + one Autumn Fair

\$22,000 in total seasonal sales

\$92,000 in total sales 2011 to 2015

Between **120** and **200** customers every week

\$600 in coupons for members of our community with lower incomes

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Kits Plastic Recycling and Village Vancouver

COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS:

Musicians Donald G. Adams and Fraser River Ramblers



SPEC URBAN FARMER FIELD SCHOOL

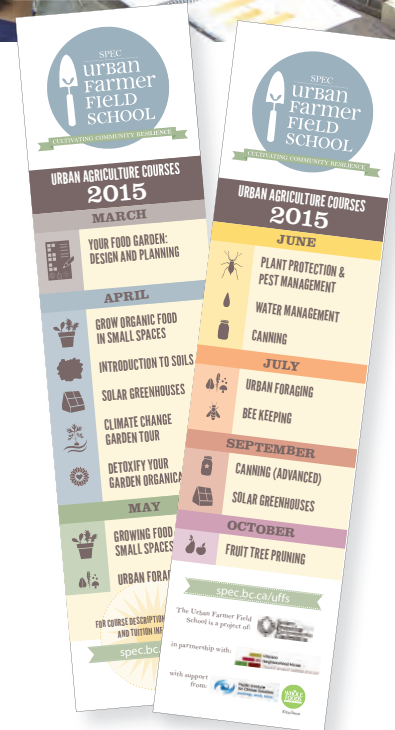
TEAM: Oliver Lane, Michelle Zhong, and Tara Moreau

ACTIVITIES: In 2015, SPEC partnered with Kitsilano Neighbourhood House to host the 4th season of the Urban Farmer Field School. This program continues to offer food growing and food making classes to the public. Since it began, the school has delivered 60 classes to over 400 people. The most popular classes in 2015 were Urban Foraging, Growing Food in Small Spaces, Beekeeping, Solar Greenhouses, Garden Planning and Design, Canning, and Growing Food in a Changing Climate: Planning for Drought & Heat Tolerance (in partnership with UBC Botanical Garden and the Vancouver Urban Farming Society).



Photo credit: "downstairs container garden" by Kate Fries (via Flickr)

FACILITATORS: For 2015, SPEC enlisted these local experts to teach the classes: Rob Baxter, Scott Bell, Dr. Jose, Celedon, Caitlin Dorward, Alisha Hackinen, Sonja Hebert, Norm Kaethler, and Dr. Tara Moreau.



ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE

— COMMITTEE MEMBERS —

Addison Lanier, Anastasia Koutalianos, Angie Nicolas, Carol Cohen, Caroline Coudreau, Daniel Rotman, Derek Leung, Emily McGill, Eyal Lebel, Henry Mwandemere, Irene Fornaguera, Ivan Cheung, Jacquie Rolston, Maya Tatuch, Richard Drake, Shona Lam & Syd Portner

— LEADERSHIP TEAM —

Angie, Daniel, Emily and Eyal

MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM

TEAM: Angie Nicolas, Daniel Rotman, Emily McGill, and Eyal Lebel

PURPOSE: To train Vancouverites on strategies to reduce waste at home and at work, by providing information to make educated purchases and disposal decisions in a circular economy.

ACTIVITIES: Master Recyclers are trained in waste prevention, recycling, and composting through an extensive eight week course that feature experts from the waste industry, along with field trips to local waste processing and recycling facilities.

Once training is completed, participants are guided to spend 30 hours doing community outreach, such as staffing booths at events, designing and implementing waste reduction and recycling projects, and educating their neighbourhood or strata. When they have completed their hours, participants become Certified Master Recyclers and are encouraged to continue their community outreach.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT: Individual donors through SPEC, HSBC Canada, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, and Vancity.

“ I was excited to find my ‘trash tribe’ who share a passion for a topic that many, well, don't or can't. I love being part of pilot projects, and I also look forward to hearing more from a group that clearly has a huge wealth of knowledge.

— Master Recycler Program participant

LEARN MORE:
www.masterrecyclervancouver.ca



OUTREACH

ACTIVITIES: Recycling and composting workshop for Kitsilano Neighbourhood House staff and seniors group, Zero Waste Club started by one of our volunteers (Jacquie), table exhibitor at Earth Day and at Car Free Day, training of waste station volunteers at Car Free Day, plastic bag monster demonstrations at different locations, participation in Roundhouse Radio Station show, sitting on the UBC/ Metro Vancouver Working Group for Multi-Family Food Waste and two National Zero Waste Council working groups. Plans for 2016: Modify the Master Recycler Course into independent modules that can be tailored to specific audiences, develop service offering for Master Recycler, continue to do outreach at public events,

update the Green to Go research report and develop the second phase of restaurant outreach, launch Just Ask and Change the Default social media campaigns, coordinate a week of events around Metro Vancouver's 2016 Zero Waste Conference, and launch a master recycler inspired weekly show at Vancouver Co-Op Radio.





SUSTAINABILITY FOR BUSINESSES



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FIELD SCHOOL

A partnership between SPEC, UBC Botanical Garden, UBC Faculty of Psychology and UBC- IRES.

LEADERSHIP TEAM: Jiaying Zhao, Oliver Lane, and Tara Moreau

STUDENT TEAM: Austin Lee, David Geselbracht, Evan Thompson, Leanne Zeng, and Paula Martinez

PURPOSE: This program engages businesses and community organizations, who help form the backbone of our communities, by combining team-building activities and stimulating nature experiences with sustainability principals. Together with their entrepreneurial resources and human capital, businesses and community organizations

can help lead the global shift to a greener economy and make Vancouver and BC bright green communities.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: A huge thank you to our funders, the Sitka Foundation and the Millard & Gow-Jarret Family, for making this program possible!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Pilot year hosted **5** organizations and over **100** employees

Top discussion topics: **water** conservation, local **food** security, **forests** conservation, and **zero waste**.



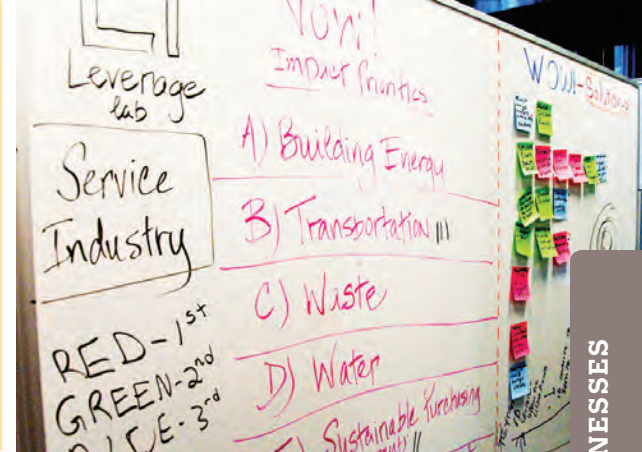
LEVERAGE LAB

TEAM: Sara Blenkhorn, from Future Strategies and former SPEC Director, created this project. Tara Moreau and Oliver Lane from SPEC provided support for the development and management of the program this year.

PURPOSE: The Leverage Lab aims at helping businesses maintain their competitive edge, harness the power of working together, and streamline the process of making authentic, meaningful change. Whether it's upcoming policy changes, new regulations, or a social shift that changes customer demand, businesses often face shared circumstances—but tend to tackle sustainability challenges on their own.



ACTIVITIES: SPEC became a partner in this innovative project in 2015 and helped secure funding from the Greenest City Grant (City of Vancouver and Vancouver Foundation). On October 22, 53 CEOs in the textiles and hospitality industries came together to push the boundaries of their sustainable business practices. This marked the kick off of a six-month incubation project known as Leverage Lab Collaboratives. The event was hosted in collaboration with THINK School of Creative Leadership and Design, Vancouver Economic Commission, Tourism Vancouver, SPEC, Greenest City Fund, Vancouver Foundation, and Future Strategies.



“Collaboration is the key to larger success.

“Leverage Lab is an amazing tool for collaborative efforts within an industry.

SPEC EVENTS AND OUTREACH

SPEC's staff and volunteers are continually involved in communicating our message to members of our community and listening to their concerns. This year we succeeded in taking part in a number of events while continuing to carry out workshops for our programs in energy & transportation, food & the environment, and zero waste. Here are some of the 2015 events and workshops we either participated in or organized:



EVENTS

MONTH

SPEC's 45 th Anniversary Celebration	April
Earth Day Celebration	April
Feeding the 5K	May
Car Free Day on Main Street	June
Jericho Beach Cleanup for World Oceans Day	June
SPEC Volunteer Appreciation Picnic	June
Westside Community Food Market	July to September
Day at the Farm	September
All-Candidates Meeting for Vancouver Quadra	October
Apple Fest at the UBC Botanical Garden	October
Coffee Cup Revolution	October
Kits House Autumn Fair	October
Vancouver Soil Celebration at City Hall	December
SPEC AGM and Year-End Party	December

WORKSHOPS AND TOURS

AMOUNT

Go Solar Tours	5 tours: July, August, September
Urban Farmer Field School classes	8 classes: March to October
School Gardens Program classes	68 classes reached with 272 lessons: delivered during the school year

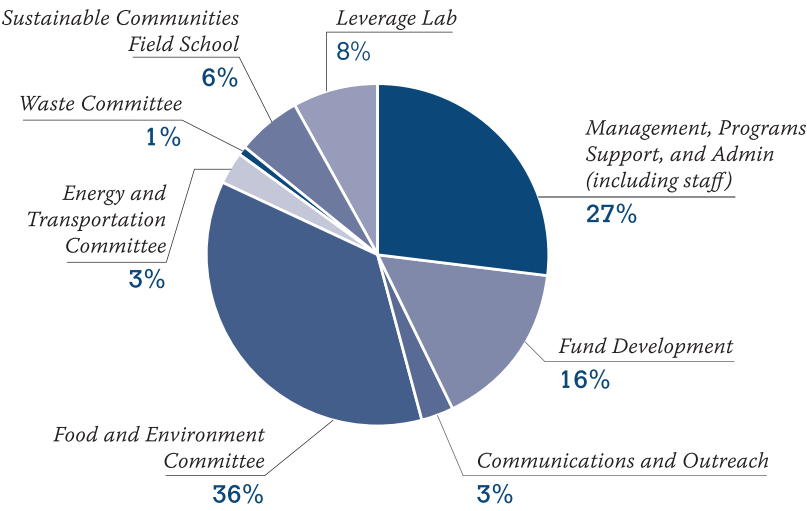
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2015

SPEC continues its effort to diversify and strengthen its financial position. SPEC is investing more resources in fund development, with the goal of growing revenue for projects and providing more stability to our core activities.

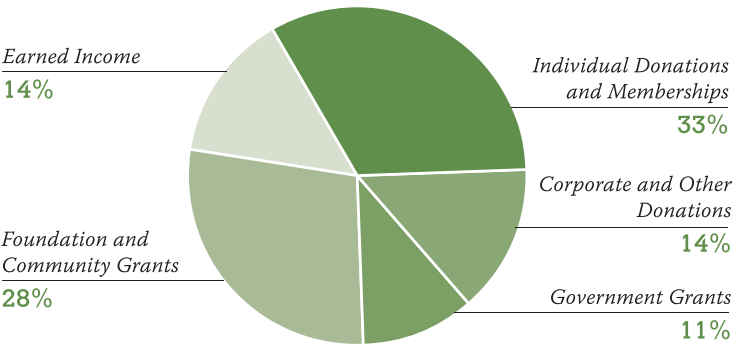
Total revenue for Fiscal Year 2015: **\$131,000**

Total expenses for Fiscal Year 2015: **\$128,000**

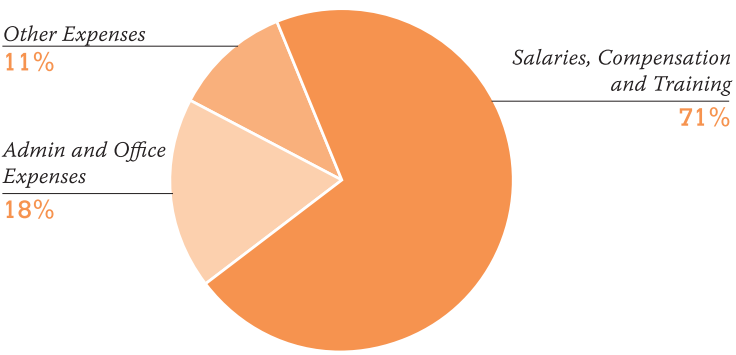
PROGRAM SPENDING



REVENUE



EXPENSES



Be Part of SPEC and Sustainable Cities

For 46 years, people
in our community
have supported
SPEC with their
time, friendship,
and enthusiasm, as
well as financially.

VOLUNTEER

• BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers play an important role in all our accomplishments, and we are eager to connect with people who are motivated to make a positive impact on our urban environment.

Here are some opportunities that might interest you and benefit your community: hands on urban food gardening, beach cleanups, teaching, researching issues, outreach at community events, fundraising, helping with sustainability tours, belonging to a committee, you name it!

LEARN

• TAKE PART IN OUR ACTIVITIES

Engage with people who share a passion for the environment and local sustainability. Attend our workshops and participate in our activities, learn about sustainability, share your own knowledge and experiences, and meet new people.

DONATE

Individual donations make our activities possible. Your gifts are also the most sustainable way to fund our work, as they make us less vulnerable to the fluctuating availability of government and foundation grants for our community activities. We hope that you can support SPEC and your community. Please remember, no donation is too small.

• MONTHLY DONATIONS

The most effective way to support our projects is to become a monthly donor. As a monthly donor, you are providing important ongoing support, and it can be as big or small as you like to fit your budget. And of course, you can stop whenever you want or need to.

► TAKE SPEC OUT FOR LUNCH

A monthly donation, for example, can equal the same amount as going for lunch on the weekend with your friends, or family, at your favourite restaurant. By treating SPEC to lunch, you can donate about \$25/month to help support education programs in your community or school. Too busy for lunch? Feel free to treat us to a latte instead.

DONATE (cont.)

Automatic monthly donations help us reduce our time and costs, use less paper and put more of your money directly into supporting SPEC's core work. Go online to Canada Helps, a secure, online charity donation service, to set up your monthly gift with us, or contact us directly for other options. A charitable tax receipt is provided for all donations above \$10.

• ANNUAL DONATION

Some people prefer to give lump sums once or twice a year, as these donations provide a much needed boost of support during peak and quiet times.

• LEAVE A LEGACY

A legacy is perhaps the easiest and most substantial way to have a lasting impact that honours your passion and commitment to your community. Past SPEC supporters have made significant contributions this way.

• BECOME A MEMBER

At only \$30 per year, this is an easy way to show your commitment to local sustainability and environmental protection in your city.

2 NEW WAYS TO GIVE & INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY

1 BECOME A MATCHING DONOR

Some donors feel more connected and valued when they see their donation being matched by another person in their community. To take part, pledge to donate up to a certain amount in our Annual Fall or Spring Donation drives— and your contribution will be matched by others. Contact us if you would like to learn more about this opportunity.

2 DONATE SECURITIES/SHARES

Donating publicly listed securities is another option that could have added benefits, which are related to the exemption on capital gains tax when donating securities to a charity. When you donate securities to SPEC, you will receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the assets the day the assets were received and sold. This might prove to be a better option than donating cash. Contact us for more information on this alternative.

HOW TO GIVE

ONLINE

Donations can be made through our website:
www.spec.bc.ca/donate
(PayPal or credit card).

PHONE

Using Visa or MasterCard:
604.736.7732

CHEQUE

Payable to "SPEC"
Mail to the office:
**2305 WEST 7TH AVE
VANCOUVER, BC V6K 1Y4**

**Each donation above \$10
receives a charitable
tax receipt.**

Please remember, no donation is too small.



CONTACT US

Whether you have a question, suggestion or a contribution, we would like to hear from members of our community. You can reach us at the SPEC office:

ADDRESS:

SPEC

**2305 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 1Y4**

EMAIL: **admin@spec.bc.ca**

PHONE: **604-736-7732**

WEBSITE: **spec.bc.ca**

This report was prepared by Karla Olson, Oliver Lane, and Carole Christopher with contributions from members of the board, committees, and other volunteers. Graphics and design by Lisa Rilkoff.