

# *SPEC ANNUAL REPORT 2018*





## Practical Solutions for Sustainable Cities

SPEC is an urban sustainability non-profit and charitable organization that develops practical solutions in the areas of sustainable food systems, zero waste, renewable energy and sustainable transportation. We empower communities and individuals to take action through hands-on education, research and advocacy.

SPEC would like to acknowledge that our work happens on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xwm??kw?y'm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:l? and S?l'ílw?ta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



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## ABOUT US

### OUR MISSION

To provide our community with practical solutions for urban sustainability.

### OUR VISION

A healthy, just and vibrant urban life that enhances local and global ecosystems.

### OUR CORE VALUES

Rooted in Community,  
Respectful, Empowering and Purposeful.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

page 12

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

### FOOD & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

page 15

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

### SUSTAINABILITY FOR BUSINESSES

page 23

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

### WASTE COMMITTEE

page 24

- ▶ Promotes practices that lead to waste reduction



## LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

SPEC burst onto the scene in 1969 in the wake of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, the book credited with beginning the modern ecological movement. In 2019, SPEC will turn 50! That's a big number with a lot of history. Over five decades, SPEC has led many successful and award-winning campaigns to protect our shared home.

We've had numerous challenges along the way, most recently in 2011 with the loss of our building to toxic mould! We kept SPEC active and engaged by having meetings in Directors' homes and running the programs as best we could until opening our new office at Kits Neighbourhood House, just shy of our 45th birthday.

Thanks to our dedicated donors, volunteers, the Board and our talented Executive Director, we have survived to a new day and a renewed mission: to provide practical solutions for urban sustainability. We do this through our Waste Committee, Energy & Transportation Committee, and Food Committee. We focus on balancing beliefs about progress, modernity, and individualism with the necessity to reconnect with one another and recognize our indivisible belonging within nature. Along these lines:

1. We support decolonization and Indigenous ways of knowing and reciprocity with nature that models a way forward.
2. We encourage elders to cultivate wisdom, to mentor younger generations, and to model resistance to a "winner take all" culture that undermines our bond with nature and with one another.
3. We develop communication skills that de-escalate the polarized public discourse that is stalling effective action to address climate change.

Ecologists and scientists agree that we need big changes in a short amount of time to save our planet, our home, but they also insist that we know what to do and have the means to do it, if we can agree to work together to inspire action and share solutions. SPEC's work to provide training, tools and tips for being ecological in our everyday decisions and actions is part of the solution.

We've always done a lot with a small budget and few staff. 2018 was no exception and we made great progress toward fulfilling our goals as you'll see in this report.

Please join us in 2019 as we celebrate 50 years of good work for our community and our Earth.

**DR. CAROLE CHRISTOPHER**

*President*

*On Behalf of the SPEC Board of Directors*

# SPEC HIGHLIGHTS 2018



## School Gardens Program

200 food literacy lessons for over 2,000 students in local schools



## Sustainability Team Building Tours

21 tours for over 650 participants from business and community groups



## Climate Change and Renewable Energy

46 workshops reaching over 1,100 students in local schools



## Master Recycler

Trained 25 participants through their eight week program. Graduates have volunteered over 600 community outreach hours so far.



## Westside Community Food Market

Facilitated 12 weekly summer markets connecting local food growers, food makers and artisans to local consumers. Markets generated over \$17,500 for Vancouver's green economy.



## Climate Change Adaptation for Small Scale Farmers

Provided cover crop seed mix and on-site support to local farms and hosted a full day symposium with over 75 farmer participants in attendance.

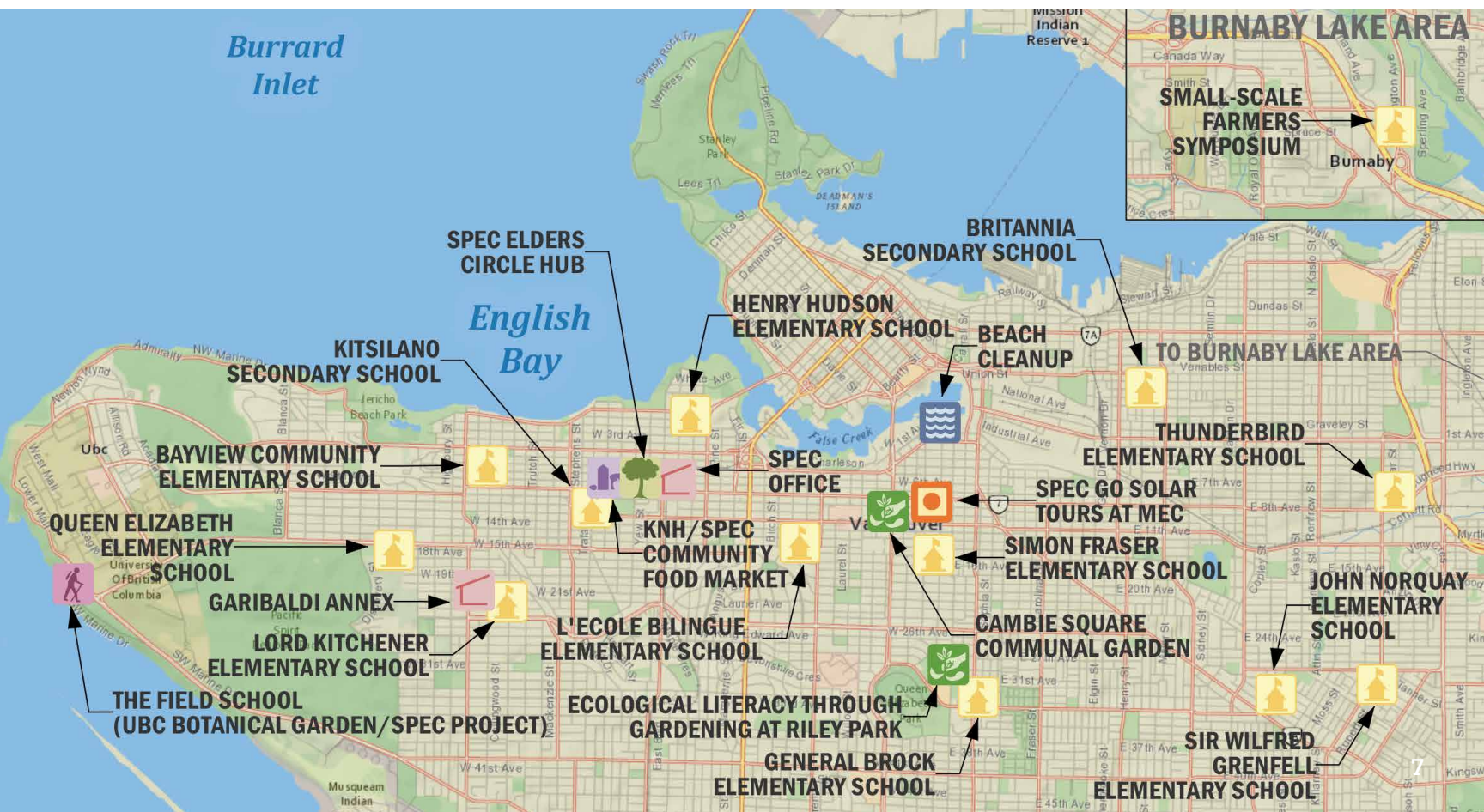
Over **5,000** SPEC volunteer hours

Sustained **3** full time green jobs, for the City of Vancouver

**ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS** \* SPECtrum, our monthly newsletter, has over **2,800** subscribers \* Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) over **3000** followers.



# SPEC IN THE CITY



# COMMUNITY STARS OF 2018



## CHRIS GOODERHAM AND RUTH BRIGGS

Chris and Ruth are an unstoppable force at SPEC! Aside from their tireless commitment to their governance role on the SPEC Board, they have led the Energy & Transportation Committee providing countless volunteer hours to help SPEC deliver sustainable energy education across Vancouver. This year we wanted to acknowledge their commitment, their energy, their expertise, their sense of humour, and their generosity. Thank you!



**Here are some of the things they have been involved with at SPEC:**

- ▶ Both are SPEC Board members, and Ruth is the Secretary of the Executive Committee.
- ▶ They are members of the leadership team on the Energy & Transportation Committee.
- ▶ Ruth created the tREX (the Renewable Energy Experience) tours and together with Chris they planned, developed and delivered tours throughout the season (see page 14).
- ▶ Chris has provided support to other SPEC teams, including the SPEC Elders Circle, and the Food & Environment Committee. He has strengthened the relationship between SPEC and the

Riley Park Garden community and has helped share SPEC's work with the public. He helped build the renewable energy models for the Climate Change and Renewable Energy Workshops for schools. Chris is the one who's always lending a hand to help set up and take down at events!

- ▶ Ruth and Chris mentor UBC students for SPEC projects, including the Right to Dry Campaign, Sustainability Stakeholders Mapping, and the Renewable Energy Demonstration project. The relationships they have built with the students and instructors have provided mutual learning opportunities and valuable connections between SPEC and UBC.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carole Christopher	Co-Chair
Kate Menzies	Co-Chair
Emily Danaher	Treasurer
Ruth Briggs	Secretary
Alison Krahn	Director
Art Bomke	Director
Chris Gooderham	Director
Daniel Rotman	Director
Eyal Lebel	Director
Ivan Cheung	Director
Magali Vander Vorst	Director
Paul Crosby	Director
Rashmi GC	Director
Tara Moreau	Director
Shelby Kitt	Director

A warm welcome to our new board member Rashmi GC! and a heartfelt thank you to Shelby Kitt for her dedication to SPEC during 2018.

## STAFF

Oliver Lane	Executive Director
Robin Hadac	Communications and Volunteer Coordinator
Barbara Constantine	Fund Development Coordinator
Luke Brennan	Climate Change and Renewable Energy Workshops Facilitator
Nikoo Boroumand	School Gardens Program Coordinator
Olga Lansdorp	Climate Change Adaptation for Small Scale Farmers Project Coordinator
Yael Stav	Ecological Literacy through Gardening Project Coordinator
Rebekah Parker	Climate Change and Renewable Energy Workshops Facilitator
Amarita Pooni	Westside Community Food Market Summer Intern



# VOLUNTEERS

SPEC is able to accomplish great work, despite limited funding, thanks to a team of passionate and committed volunteers who are integral to our mission. Last year, volunteers, including members of the board, collectively donated over five thousand hours of their time and talent; the equivalent of \$150,000 of labour costs. Volunteers contribute in a variety of ways, including through project leadership, governance, outreach in the community, support with administrative and communications tasks, and in fundraising.

You can meet our committee volunteers by reading about the individual community projects throughout this report.

In addition to volunteers listed by committee, we would like to also acknowledge: Carole Christopher, Chris Gooderham, Paul Crosby, Magali Vander Vorst, Diane Lines, Pauline Morand, Lisa Rilkoff, Karen Taylor, Bianca Ball, Karina Villada, Kate Menzies and Jai Sportun for their help with administration, communication and fundraising.

A big thanks to our enthusiastic volunteers!



**“ I like volunteering with SPEC because it connects me with the nature I so much love, and hope that one day everyone can feel the same. SPEC gives me that hope through its practical and sustainable solutions it shares with the community.**

**— Karina Villada,  
SPEC Volunteer**

# OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

SPEC works collaboratively with community partners, organizations and sponsors to pursue the goal of environmental conservation. Please join us in giving a SPEC-tacular thank you to the following organizations:

Zero Waste Club \* Zero Waste Canada \* Young Agrarians \* Whole Foods Market \* West Coast Seeds \*  
Vancouver Urban Farming Society \* Vancouver Schools participating in our programs \* Vancouver School Food Network  
(VSFN) \* Vancouver School Board \* Vancouver Renewable Energy Coop \* Vancouver Foundation \* Vancouver Food  
Policy Council \* Vancouver Farmers Markets \* Vancouver Co-op Radio \* Vancity \* University of the Fraser Valley \*  
UBC Partnership Recognition Fund \* UBC Farm \* UBC Botanical Garden \* UBC – SCIE 420 class \*  
UBC – Psychology \* UBC – POLI 373 Class \* UBC – Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability \*  
UBC – INFO 250 class \* UBC – ENVR 400 Class \* UBC – Centre for Sustainable Food Systems \* Thunderbird  
After-School Care Program \* Telus \* TD Friends of the Environment Foundation \* Suzuki Elders Circle \* Surfrider  
Foundation \* Sitka Foundation \* Riley Park Community \* Redemption Church \* Recycling Alternative \*  
Recycle BC \* Pacific Northwest Garden Supply \* Metro Vancouver \* Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics \* Lululemon  
Athletica \* Little Mountain Neighbourhood House \* Little Mountain Community Fund \* Kitsilano Neighbourhood  
House \* Hudson Out-Of-School Care \* Home Depot \* Hewer Home Hardware \* Hamber Foundation \*  
Growing Forward 2 \* Grandview Woodland Food Connection \* Gow-Jarrett and Millard Family \* Government of  
Canada \* Government of British Columbia \* Gaia Green \* Farmland Advantage \* Environmental Farm Plan \*  
E.S. Cropconsult \* Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University \*  
Leverage Lab and Future Strategies \* Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust \* Click \* City of Vancouver \*  
Chris Spencer Foundation \* Bullfrog Power \* BC Ministry of Agriculture \* BC Housing \* BC Association of Farmers’  
Markets \* Acme Delivery Company \* Ace Accounting and Tax Services \* 1% for the Planet



## ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### — VOLUNTEERS —

Chris Gooderham (Co-Chair),  
Alison Krahn (Co-Chair), Ruth  
Briggs (Secretary)

Steve Fetterly, Betzy Salas,  
Sushmitha Karunakaran, Jay  
Maloney, Andre Jankowski, Richa  
Chuttani, Ben Crowley, Diane King

### — STUDENT GROUPS —

- a) UBC SCIE420 – Right to Dry project
- b) ENVR 400 – Renewable energy demo project (current)

### — STAFF —

Luke Brennan, Rebekah Parker,  
Robin Hadac, Oliver Lane



## CLIMATE CHANGE & RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOPS

### THE PROGRAM

- ▶ Provides students with science-based information on the causes and impacts of climate change
- ▶ Delivers engaging, hands-on learning experiences to explore systems of renewable energy
- ▶ Empowers students to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

### HIGHLIGHTS

Our team conducted:

- ▶ **46 workshops** for over **1000 students** in local schools
- ▶ **Professional Development Day training** for teachers

### FUNDING SUPPORT

We would like to thank the Chris Spencer Foundation for their generous support.

## SCHOOLS

- ▶ Eagle Mountain
- ▶ Norma Rose Point
- ▶ Dr. Annie B. Jamieson
- ▶ Kerrisdale
- ▶ Lord Roberts
- ▶ Sir Sanford Fleming
- ▶ Dr. George M. Weir
- ▶ Lord Nelson
- ▶ J.W. Sexmith
- ▶ Waverley
- ▶ David Lloyd George
- ▶ Sir William Osler
- ▶ Bayview Community
- ▶ West Coast Christian School
- ▶ Sir Guy Carleton
- ▶ South Delta Home Learners
- ▶ Stride Avenue

## STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE WORKSHOP:

“ The most important message...was to show us what decisions we could choose to make to adapt better to climate change.

“ One action that I will take to help combat climate change is to figure out what I can do to make my carbon footprint smaller than the average Canadian.

“ The most important message is to stop climate change by using different types of energy.

“ A little change could help a lot.



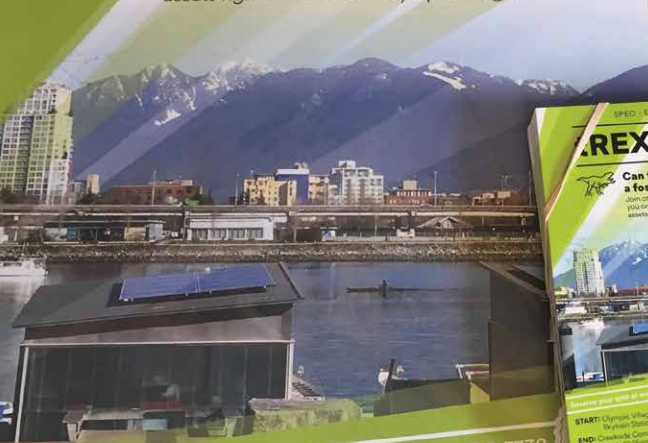
SPEC - ENERGY PRESENTS

## tREX the Renewable Energy Experience



**Can the world really get to a fossil fuel free future?**

Join others in your community as SPEC takes you on a tour of Vancouver's renewable energy assets right here around Olympic village.



your spot at [www.spec.bc.ca/tREX-tours](http://www.spec.bc.ca/tREX-tours) or call 604-736-7732

Olympic Village  
Skytrain Station 11am  
Creekside Community  
Centre 12:15pm

### TOUR DATES FOR THE SUMMER

Saturday June 16  
Saturday July 21  
Saturday August 18  
Saturday September 15



Society  
Promoting  
Environmental  
Conservation



## THE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPERIENCE (tREX)

### VOLUNTEERS

Ruth Briggs, Chris Gooderham, and Steve Fetterly

### THE PROGRAM

tREX takes participants on a walking journey from Olympic Village Skytrain station to Creekside Community Centre to showcase local renewable energy assets, transportation modes, sustainable building strategies and designs, urban farming, local social housing and more! We encourage participants to commit to one climate action once they leave the tour. In 2018, we delivered 8 tours, between April and November hosting 70 participants.

### SOLAR TOURS

tREX conducts guided tours of SPEC's rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at Mountain Equipment Co-op's Vancouver location (est. 2014). Tour participants of all ages learn about the environmental benefits of solar systems and how to integrate solar power into their own homes and buildings. Tours are offered in partnership with Vancouver Renewable Energy Cooperative.

### RIGHT TO DRY CAMPAIGN

tREX, in tandem with a group of UBC students, is exploring the value of a campaign to promote the "Right to Dry" clothes on outdoor clothes hangers. Electric dryers are a big drain on energy, so outdoor clothes drying is a great step toward reducing our environmental footprint.



# FOOD & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## — VOLUNTEERS—

Art Bomke (co-chair), Kate Menzies (co-chair), Tara Moreau (co-chair), Paula Porto, Victoria Tool, Michelle Wang, Paris Chen, Brianna Thompson, Bill Plummer

## — STUDENT GROUPS —

BC SCIE420 – Cover Crop project

## — STAFF —

Nikoo Boroumand, Olga Lansdorp,  
Yael Stav, Robin Hadac,  
Oliver Lane



## SPEC SCHOOL GARDENS PROGRAM

### VOLUNTEERS

Victoria Tool, Olga Lansdorp

### STAFF

Nikoo Boroumond

### PURPOSE

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **200 lessons** on seeds, garden design, planting, nutrition, composting, biodiversity, harvesting, cooking, and other related lessons to over **2000 students** in local schools
- ▶ **Over 75 garden boxes** (plus a fruit orchard!) planted, grown and harvested
- ▶ **Seven harvest parties** to celebrate the fruit of the students' labour and love

“ My kids (and I) always look forward to our gardening lessons. They always learn so much and have a greater appreciation for our school garden and where food comes from. I really appreciate having someone who organizes lessons/activities throughout the year [and] the kids always enjoy the lessons on worms/composting, insects, how seeds travel and planting seeds/growing seedlings.

— Teacher



### HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

Three of our schools “graduated” from the program in 2018 as teachers in these schools, having worked with SPEC for many years, now feel confident to oversee the program independently. This allows SPEC to partner with new school communities, thus expanding our impact.

In June 2018 one of our partner schools, John Norquay Elementary, was awarded the Farm to School BC Pollinator Award, the highest award available to school gardens in British Columbia.

In November 2018, students were engaged to replace four old garden boxes at Thunderbird Elementary, one of Vancouver's high-needs schools. Thunderbird students built and planted four new garden boxes and continue to work toward developing an Indigenous Foodscapes garden area.

Our program helps school gardens remain bountiful even during the summer months, and the SPEC website provides free, ongoing garden lesson resources to encourage educators to incorporate school garden lessons and programming in their curriculum and our program helps school gardens remain bountiful. For more information visit: [spec.bc.ca](http://spec.bc.ca).

### PARTNER SCHOOLS

- ▶ Bayview Community School
- ▶ Britannia Secondary
- ▶ Champlain Heights
- ▶ Garibaldi Annex
- ▶ General Brock Elementary
- ▶ Henry Hudson Elementary School
- ▶ John Norquay Elementary
- ▶ L'Ecole Bilingue
- ▶ Lord Selkirk
- ▶ Queen Elizabeth Elementary
- ▶ Queen Mary Elementary
- ▶ Thunderbird Elementary



## 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, the Vancouver School Food Network (VSFN), and the Vancouver School Board.

“ I see the effect it has on my students and their knowledge base. I am very impressed with Nikoo's expertise... and it is a great reinforcer of the science curriculum. Hands on activities always rule the day in science!

— Teacher

## FUNDING SUPPORT

We would like to thank the funders that supported SPEC's School Garden Program:

- ▶ Acme Delivery Company
- ▶ BC Gaming Community Grant
- ▶ Canada Summer Jobs Grant (Federal Government)
- ▶ Contributing to Lives of Inner City Kids (CLICK)
- ▶ TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- ▶ Telus Community Board
- ▶ UBC Botanical Garden
- ▶ UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems: Think & Eat Green @ School
- ▶ West Coast Seeds
- ▶ School Parents
- ▶ SPEC Individual Donors

“ I think I learned a lot from gardening with Nikoo. I learned that some plants cannot live in this kind of climate. I also thought it was a really fun experience. Now I know what raw greens taste like.

— Olivia, Grade 4 student, John Norquay Elementary School

“ I like the school garden because there are a whole lot of yummy stuff like carrots, parsley, and spinach.

— Marcus, Grade 3 student, John Norquay Elementary School

“ My favourite part of the garden is that you could make tea with the plants.

— Vernon, Grade 6 student, General Brock Elementary School





## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON FARMLAND INITIATIVES

### VOLUNTEERS

Art Bomke (co-chair), Kate Menzies (co-chair), Tara Moreau (co-chair), Paula Porto

### STAFF

Olga Lansdorp

### PURPOSE

Provide information to the public and to local governments, as well as support for local farmers. Agricultural ecosystems provide many benefits to society including aesthetic and spiritual value, soil fertility, pest control, pollination, and food provisioning.

We develop partnerships with groups doing complementary work, such as Young Agrarians, Farmland Advantage, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver Urban Farmers Society and Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Impacted over **40 local small-scale farms**
- ▶ Provided **cover crop seed mix to 15 farms**
- ▶ Held a **Farmers' Symposium for over 75 participants** with presentations and discussions on topics such as pest management, drainage, farmer resilience, soil management and farm-specific questions.

“It's tough to find affordable learning opportunities and SPEC always comes through.

– Symposium Participant

“The project has been a great resource for everyone on the farm with regard to soil nutrient management, soil biology, and pest control.

– Participating Farmer

## FUNDING AND PROJECT SUPPORT

A huge thank you to:

- ▶ Vancouver Foundation
- ▶ Vancity enviroFund
- ▶ Whole Foods Market
- ▶ Gow-Jarrett and Millard Family
- ▶ UBC Botanical Garden
- ▶ UBC Partnership Recognition Fund
- ▶ Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at UBC Farm
- ▶ Young Agrarians
- ▶ Vancouver Urban Farming Society
- ▶ Farmland Advantage
- ▶ Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust
- ▶ Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- ▶ Environmental Farm Plan

**SPEC PRESENTS**

# Small-Scale Farmers' SYMPOSIUM

**SUN JANUARY 21 | 9:00-5:30**  
SCANDINAVIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby BC

Featuring Presentations & Discussions on:  
SOIL | INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT  
FARMER RESILIENCY | PROBLEM SOLVING

**REGISTER NOW! [tinyurl.com/farmers-event](https://tinyurl.com/farmers-event)**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Growing Forward 2, Society for Promoting Environmental Conservation, BRITISH COLUMBIA, Canada

WITH SUPPORT FROM

YVA, IYUFS, UBC Farm, es, BC Farmers' Markets, Vancity, KPU, University of Fraser Valley, BC Association of Farmers' Markets







## **CAMBIE SQUARE COMMUNAL GARDEN**

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Paris Chen, Michelle Wang, Greg Mountain, Katie Nuefeld, Nikoo Boroumand

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Demetry, Sarah, Andaleeb, Leah, Chantel, Juliana, Eileen

### **PURPOSE**

The Cambie Square Garden is a communally run demonstration garden. There are no individual plots, and all volunteers share in the planning, planting, and harvesting.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The team met every Sunday evening and grew at least 20 different crops which were shared among the dedicated volunteers! The leadership team worked on renovating the old garden beds, hosting three successful gardening workshops, and one work party to replace some of the garden boxes.

A big thank you to our sponsor Aviva Canada for supporting our Fall work party.



## **WESTSIDE COMMUNITY FOOD MARKET**

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Hanan Samak, Kathi Prochotsky, Greg Jung, Charlie Zhu, Sally Speers, Karl Sutker, Arnaly Daisy, Shirley Li, Lisa Lesli, Shelby Camozzi, Nicole Babor, Jessica Hua, Emily Hua, Ana Bandari, Cheryl-Lee Madden, Flavie Choinière, Michelle Ocfemia, Ramilyn Sagun, Sophie Richards, Kathy Deng, Kelly Jiang, Jai Sportun, Friday Chen, Jennifer Graham, Wayne Ng, Mariza Phillips, Camille Van Tassel

### **STAFF**

Amarita Pooni (coordinator), Oliver Lane, Zoe Little (Kits House) and Robin Hadac





## ACTIVITIES

For 8 years, Kits House and SPEC have collaborated to organize the Westside Community Food Market. Our goal has been to increase community access to growers and food makers who provide locally produced food. We also create opportunities for small businesses and new vendors committed to sustainability.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Weekly customers contributed over **\$17,500 dollars to the local community**
- ▶ **30 people** committed close to **400 volunteer hours**
- ▶ We supported **15 vendors in their first year of business**
- ▶ We allocated **\$400 dollars of coupons** to underserved community members

## A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- ▶ The City of Vancouver
- ▶ The Westside Food Collaborative
- ▶ All our vendors, who offered their best products to our community
- ▶ Kitsilano Neighbourhood House for partnering with us to run this great program
- ▶ All our market volunteers





## ECOLOGICAL LITERACY THROUGH GARDENING AT RILEY PARK

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Art Bomke, Norm Dooley (Little Mountain Community Fund),  
Joanne MacKinnon (Riley Park Community Garden)

### COORDINATOR

Yael Stav

### PURPOSE

The Riley Park education project “Ecological Literacy Through Gardening” is a project that involves SPEC and the Riley Park community garden. This project is designed to promote ecological literacy among students, enhance their access to healthy and wholesome food, and encourage youth to develop critical thinking about the land, its history and the protocols of community relations and responsibilities.

### HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019 a class from General Brock Elementary participated in the program. Sessions included:

- ▶ Sustainable Agriculture
- ▶ Edaphic properties of the garden
- ▶ Soil chemistry
- ▶ Food and Nutrition
- ▶ Introduction to native plants
- ▶ Pollination
- ▶ Teaching for the Commons

### FUNDERS

A big thank you to Little Mountain Community Fund and Vancity for supporting this pilot project





# SUSTAINABILITY FOR BUSINESSES

## — LEADERSHIP TEAM —

Dr. Tara Moreau (UBC Botanical Garden), Oliver Lane (SPEC), and Dr. Jiaying Zhao (UBC)

## — GRADUATE STUDENTS —

PhD Candidate: Ivana Zelenika



## FIELD SCHOOL – SUSTAINABLE TEAM-BUILDING FOR BUSINESSES



## PURPOSE

Local businesses are key to the design and development of a green economy. The Field School provides fun and interactive team-building activities within UBC Botanical Garden to organizations and their employees with the goal to inspire and enable positive sustainability action with businesses.

## HIGHLIGHTS

During a typical 3-hour visit to UBC Botanical Garden Field School teams learn about local watersheds, sustainable food choices, zero waste strategies and the importance of biodiversity conservation. In 2018 we hosted 21 groups with over 650 participants in the program.

## COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Field School is jointly hosted by SPEC and UBC Botanical Garden in collaboration with Faculty and Graduate students at UBC IRES (Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability) and UBC Psychology.



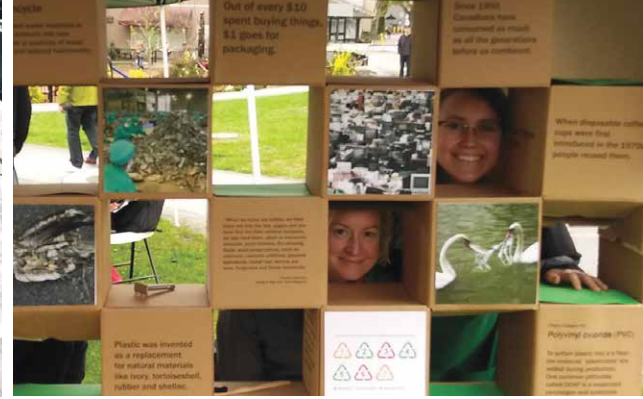
# WASTE COMMITTEE

## — MEMBERS —

Audrey Crespy, Maya Tatuch,  
Eyal Lebel, Daniel Rotman, Henry  
Mwandemere, Jacque Rolston, Julie  
Bezard, Syd Portner, Paul Leung,  
Jacie Tan, Karina Villada, Carolina  
Sanchez, Angie Nicolas, Kanna Ng,  
Evan Cronmiller, Andee Wiedeman

## — STUDENT GROUPS —

- a) UBC INFO 250 – Social Media for  
Master Recycler
- b) UBC ENVR 400 – Styrofoam  
take-out containers research project
- c) UBC ENVR 400 – Waste Reduction  
in Urban Centres Project (current)



## STAFF

Robin Hadac and Oliver Lane

## PURPOSE

The Waste Committee is a power house where individuals can find resources, expertise and volunteer support to turn their zero waste ideas into attainable goals and projects.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Zero Waste Living conversations** at Earth Day and Car Free Day on Main Street.
- ▶ **Hosted a film screening of Sea Life** for World Oceans Day
- ▶ **Talkin' Trash Radio Show:** a show about garbage, because there is a lot to talk about!  
Episodes are available at [www.soundcloud.com/talkintrashradio](http://www.soundcloud.com/talkintrashradio)



[soundcloud.com/talkintrashradio](http://soundcloud.com/talkintrashradio)



## MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM

### RESEARCH

Cross City Comparison of Waste Systems: Through a partnership with students in a 4th year Environment Studies course at UBC, research is underway that will examine the similarities and differences between the waste systems in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Edmonton

### FUTURE INITIATIVES

The ToolBox Project: In 2019 we will focus on collecting the best solutions available for the top waste related problems in the Lower Mainland. The group will be seeking and working collaboratively with community partners! Look out for more in the new year.

### LEADERSHIP

Daniel Rotman, Emily McGill, Eyal Lebel

### PURPOSE

The Master Recycler program is a free, eight-week course in which participants learn what happens to their waste after it leaves their homes. Training is followed by a 30-hour outreach component when Master Recyclers bring their knowledge to their own communities and engage others in zero waste initiatives. So far Master Recyclers have volunteered over two thousand outreach hours in the community!

### FUNDING AND PROJECT SUPPORT

Big thanks to Recycle BC.



## SPEC EVENTS AND OUTREACH



SPEC's staff and volunteers are continually involved in community events while continuing to carry out workshops for our programs in renewable energy, sustainable food systems and waste reduction. Here are some of the 2018 events and workshops we either participated in or organized:

EVENT NAME	DATE	LOCATION
UBC Sustainability Fair	January 24	UBC
Sea of Life Screening	World Water Day, March 22	Jericho Sailing Centre
Earth Day Parade	April 21	Grandview Park
Quilchena Elementary Eco Fair	April 26	Quilchena Elementary
Car Free Day	June 17	Main Street
World Oceans Day Beach Cleanup	June 9	Plaza of Nations
tREX Tours	5 tours, April to November	Olympic Villiage
Westside Community Food Market	July to September	Kits House
Day at the Farm	September 8	Westham Island Herb Farm
Climate Science Fair	October 25	Charles Dickens Elementary



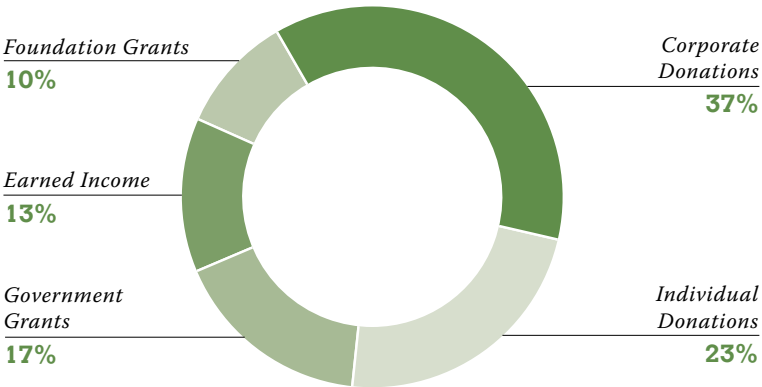
# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total revenue for Fiscal Year 2018: **\$158,683**

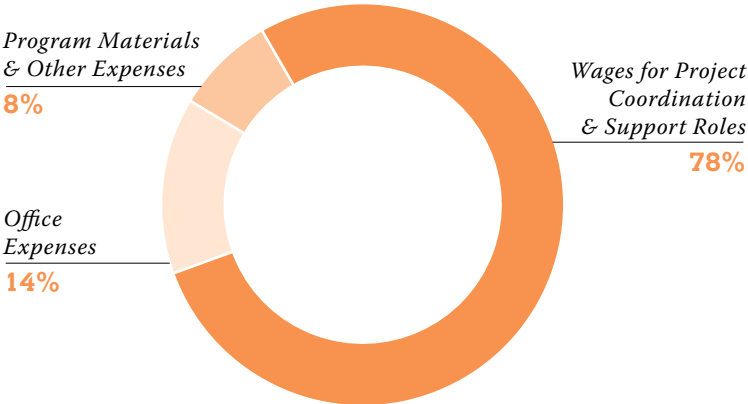
Total expenses for Fiscal Year 2018: **\$161,118**



## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



# Be Involved

## Learn, Volunteer, Donate

Since 1969 SPEC has provided opportunities to individuals and communities to develop skills and knowledge about local sustainability solutions, to volunteer in meaningful ways, and to financially support local impact.

## LEARN

SPEC workshops, activities and events are designed to connect and inform motivated individuals, families, groups and businesses. Our goal is to inspire and to provide useful tools for exploring newer and deeper ways of sustainable urban living and action for change.

Information and calendar listings can always be found at [spec.bc.ca](http://spec.bc.ca).

## VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the vibrant heart and soul of SPEC. We are consistently impressed and inspired with their willingness to roll up their sleeves and make a positive impact on our urban environment.

Get involved by joining a committee, helping out at an event, developing a project, or sharing your administrative, communications or development skills in our office.



# DONATE

## GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

Donors are the much-admired and appreciated guardians of SPEC. Their generosity is the foundation for everything that we do on Mother Nature's behalf.

Thanks to their ongoing financial support we are able to present a range of workshops, programs and events that introduce greener ways for our community to move forward.

The simplest way to donate is through automatic monthly contributions to fit your budget and time frame. Just go to [spec.bc.ca/donate](http://spec.bc.ca/donate) to sign up and get started. You can also donate by cheque or by phone.

We appreciate gifts of all amounts. Contributions are tax-deductible and no donation is too small... or too large!

## FLEXIBLE OPTIONS

- ▶ An effective method of leveraging your donation is to challenge others to match your contribution. We can help set up the opportunity in our annual donation drive, or in special initiatives. Or you can design your own challenge. Let's talk.
- ▶ Some donors prefer the option of donating securities and shares and receiving an exemption on capital gains tax. Tax receipts are provided for the fair market value of the assets on the day that they were received and sold. If this would work for you, please get in touch.
- ▶ Legacy gifts are a great way to create a long-term impact that honours your passion, values and commitment. It's a thoughtful, philanthropic and far-sighted way to help future generations. We're happy to discuss with you what other legacy donors have done.

## SHOWING APPRECIATION

SPEC is grateful to our donors as we recognize their continuing generosity.

All who donate \$30 or more receive free membership and are qualified to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

After the business portion of the meeting is conducted, the rest of the AGM becomes our annual gathering of the clan. Donors are welcome to attend this friendly, informal event and meet other environmentally conscious people.

Attendees will get a look-back at the previous year's accomplishments as well as a sneak peek at upcoming initiatives.

Donors are also invited to key events throughout the year. Our donor list is never shared, and we won't clog your inbox with unnecessary communications. Donors will also receive our SPECTRUM Newsletter to keep you informed on all that's happening.



A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like ivy, filling the left side of the page. The leaves are detailed with visible veins and are set against a dark background.

# HOW TO GIVE

## **ONLINE**

Donations can be made  
through our website:  
**[www.spec.bc.ca/donate](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6K 1Y4**

EMAIL: **[admin@spec.bc.ca](mailto:admin@spec.bc.ca)**

PHONE: **604-736-7732**

WEBSITE: **[spec.bc.ca](http://spec.bc.ca)**

This report was prepared by Oliver Lane, Amarita Pooni and Robin Hadac with contributions from members of the board, committees and other volunteers. Graphic design by Lisa Rilkoff.