

**Annual General Meeting 2012
Director's Report**

Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Time: 7:45-8:30pm

Location: The HiVE, 210-128 West Hastings, Vancouver BC

National organization (Young Environmental Professionals, YEP / Connecting Environmental Professionals, CEP)

CEP is part of a national network of chapters promoting opportunities for networking, career development and capacity building in the environmental and sustainability professions. Each chapter under the Young / Connecting Environmental Professionals (YEP / CEP) umbrella is fully responsible for its own operations and activities.

Being linked to the YEP / CEP network involves the following:

- ❖ Allowing **transferrable memberships** between chapters.
- ❖ Participating in **national conference calls** to maintain communication between the chapters.
- ❖ Working with other chapters to **coordinate national events** (e.g. GLOBE related events), **conferences, and marketing opportunities**.

Membership

As of May 6, 2012, CEP has **669 members**. There have been 113 new members since April 2011, compared to 68 new members from April 2010 to April 2011.

Board Planning Session (summer 2011)

At the planning session for the 2011/2012 year, we determined we would continue to offer a variety of options to our membership. Our program included speaker events, workshops, tours, networking opportunities, social opportunities and a mentorship program.

We set some targets for our events this year, including the following:

- ❖ **Speaker events:** hold 3 events
 - Result: held 1 in the fall and 3 in the winter/spring
- ❖ **Workshops:** hold 2 events
 - Result: held 3 in the winter/spring
- ❖ **Tours:** hold 3 events
 - Result: held 1 in the fall and 2 in the winter/spring
- ❖ **Social event:** work with Green Drinks to offer a holiday social
 - Result: held a Green Holiday social in conjunction with Green Drinks and raised donations for the food bank
- ❖ **Mentorship program:** provide one-to-one mentoring for 10 pairs
 - Result: program currently in progress with 11 pairs
- ❖ **Other events:** 2 speed mentoring / networking events, and GLOBE / Leading Change 2012.

Speaker Events

Date	Organizer(s)	Speaker	# Members	# Non-members
Nov. 7, 2011	Laurie and Iona	Connecting People and Places: 2011 Council Candidates Discuss Metro Vancouver's Transportation Future (in Partnership with SFU's City Program)	Over 200 people	
Feb. 23, 2012	Iona and Allyson	Socially Responsible Investing: Engaging Businesses to Facilitate Positive Change	11	15
Feb. 27, 2012	Manon	Designing for People and the Planet	8	21
April 4, 2012	Alex and Manon	Can mining be sustainable?	35	25
April 24, 2012	Alex	Earth Day Event in Partnership with Latincouver: Sustainability in Latin America	Over 50 people	

Workshops/Tours

Date	Organizer(s)	Workshop	# Members	# Non-members
Nov. 24, 2011	Leigh	Southeast False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility Tour	8	10
Jan. 18, 2012	Iona	Carbon Management – Measure, Manage and Reduce your Carbon Footprint	8	4
Feb. 4, 2012	Alex	Life Cycle Assessment: A Day of Practical Training	16	5
Feb. 29, 2012	Laurie	CEP Event: Connecting with Nature – An Evening Snowshoe Tour	12	8
May 3, 2012	Laurie and Dawn	CEP Event: Connecting with Our Waste – A Tour of Urban Wood Waste Recyclers	6	4
May 5, 2012	Iona and Manon	Participatory Planning Workshop	14	3

Speed-Mentoring Sessions

Date	Organizer(s)	Event	# Members	# Non-members
Oct. 6, 2011	Allyson and Leigh	Connecting with Local Food	14	35
May 9, 2012	Leigh	CEP Speed Networking Event	TBD	TBD

GLOBE / Leading Change 2012 (CEP's efforts led by Allyson and Dawn)

At the 2012 GLOBE Conference held in Vancouver, CEP/YEP and The Delphi Group kick-started **Leading Change**, a Canada-wide movement of young environmental and sustainability professionals working together to catalyze action and influence positive change locally, regionally and internationally. During the 2012 GLOBE Conference, there was a week-long program attended by **132 delegates**, including

a one-day **Emerging Leader Forum**, and opening and closing social events. The inaugural **Funds for the Future Challenge** – one of the continued action events following The Emerging Leaders Forum – will take place late this summer in Alberta.

Mentorship Program (coordinated by Lesley and Allyson)

This is the seventh year of the CEP mentorship program and we continue to have great success with our mentor / mentee matches. When we plan the program, we allow for up to 10 matches to be made. We have found that this is the optimum number that we can successfully manage. This year we have 11 matches. The program runs January to June each year. However, we are always looking for new volunteer mentors. Anyone who is interested in being mentor or know of someone who might be interested, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Communications

Mailing lists:

CEP currently operates one mailing list:

- ❖ Over 1282 subscribers.
- ❖ This list has high traffic, as it contains community and CEP events, as well as job postings related to environmental and sustainability professionals. Political and canvassing emails are discouraged, as this is intended as a notification list only.
- ❖ All postings are sent to our volunteer coordinator, Shasha Wang, who then uploads these postings onto the CEP website. Updates about these postings are sent out to our list-serve on a weekly basis.

LinkedIn:

Account established and connections made, however, discussion posts not up and running as yet.

Twitter:

As of May 2012, we have 950 followers (compared to 722 in April 2011), mainly industry experts and bodies, as well as those working in the industry. Many re-tweets centre around CEP events and job postings.

Facebook:

Following the establishment of the account towards the end of 2009, 425 people now like us on Facebook (compared to 225 in April 2011). This is a result of the promotion of the Facebook icon on the homepage of our website and on our event announcements. Comments from fans are few. Posts from CEP promote events and sustainability and environmental news in general.

Website:

The CEP website is currently being revamped. In the upcoming year, we hope to streamline some of our services (e.g. electronic membership registration form, and changes to the ways members receive email updates) and make the website more effective and valuable to our members. This initiative is being led by Dawn.

This year, we also have a new **Event / Workshop Calendar Coordinator**, Tiffany Pither, who is helping us create a centralized calendar for all sustainability events in the Lower Mainland. The intent is to have a one-stop calendar that our members can reference. The calendar is also a source for other sustainability-minded organizations to confirm that there are no other conflicting events happening in Vancouver – meaning there would be less chance the events that our members want to attend will be on the same day.

Other CEP Activities

- In November 2011, we welcomed Dawn Hancock to the CEP Board. Prior to joining the Board, Dawn was the volunteer coordinator for CEP, and was assisting us with a number of tasks, including our website and our day-to-day administrative activities. Dawn is now overseeing the re-development of our website and she replaces a member who resigned from the Board earlier in the year.
- This year, we have established an informal collaborative partnership with the **British Columbia Environment Industry Association (BCEIA)** and have identified a CEP member to be a liaison between CEP and BCEIA. This individual will be a formal member of the BCEIA Board and will be a valuable contributor in extending BCEIA's outreach to the wider community of environmental professionals, and in identifying opportunities and events for CEP and BCEIA to cross-promote and co-host.
- We have also held many of our monthly meetings and speaker events at **The HiVE** this year, as we recognize and share their goal of catalyzing opportunities for collaboration and innovation. CEP intends to continue supporting The HiVE, as well as other similar organizations such as **The Network Hub** in their efforts to facilitate networking and collaboration.
- **UBC Net Impact Conference and Sustainability Expo "Sustainability – Beyond Rhetoric"**. This year CEP was proud to be a sponsor and exhibitor of this conference. Attendance at the conference gave CEP the opportunity to expand our membership base while sharing information on CEP's mission as an organization and our upcoming events.

Connecting Environmental Professionals (CEP) is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to promoting opportunities for capacity building, career development and networking. Our members include working professionals and future professionals (including students!) from government, business, not-for-profit organizations, and associations.

CEP was launched in 2002, and is a chapter of the national organization 'Young Environmental Professionals'. CEP Vancouver now has close to 670 members and the national organization has more than 1000, with active chapters also in Ottawa and Calgary. For more information, please see: www.cepvancouver.org