

## **The Sustainable Energy and Environmental Network Executive Summary of 2017 Activities**

The Sustainable Energy & Environmental Network (SEEnet) is a non-profit organization dedicated to community education about environmental stewardship and the sustainable use of energy resources and technologies.

### **Executive Summary Highlights**

Highlights for 2017 include an increase in eco-events and activities, community partnerships, and engagement on social media. The annual Electrathon Derby saw a resurgence with the new partnership and relocation of the event to the Tri-Cities Race Kart Track at the Horn Rapids Sports Complex. See below for detailed events and goals for 2018.

### **Delta Engineering Club**

The Delta Engineering Club (initially formed at Delta HS) is coordinated by Peter Rieke, a community volunteer and staff scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Team members from the regional high schools, with the help of parents and dedicated mentors, apply their science classroom learning to hands-on, practical engineering tasks.

The main activity this year has been learning to improve the efficiency of the currently built cars: how to improve the aerodynamics to increase endurance or longevity on each battery charge. The students research, rebuilt and test the cars. They learn to monitor performance, make changes, retest, then compete in endurance races. Competitive derby events in the Pacific Northwest allowed the team to test their ideas and skills in real make or break events. As the designs are unique and the original cars are built from scratch, the students are often challenged to find quick fixes for unexpected car problems.

Students also exhibited their derby cars at various events and answered questions from the public and media. It is found that after high school, club members often go on to various universities to study science and engineering, a testament of their experience in the electric vehicle engineering club.

### **2017 Electrathon at Tri-Cities Kart Club, Horn Rapids Sport Complex**

SEEnet, with your help, has, since its inception, sponsored the local Electrathon America race. This year, the club had the opportunity to change the 13-year location from a parking lot at Columbia Basin College (CBC) to a full fledge derby track in North Richland. This event brought Electrathon crew teams from around the Pacific Northwest for a full day of exciting races in a state of the art facility. This event brings school advisors, coaches, or mentors, and parents together for a friendly competitive event where they admire each other's work, but learn from each other's success and failures. SEEnet members hope to continue to grow the event to include more high school students by partnering with Tri-Tech in 2018. Resurrecting the Alternative Energy Expo as part of this event is one of our future goals.

### **Mid-Columbia Earth Month and Earth Hour**

Mid-Columbia Earth Month includes the coordination and/or promotion of many activities and events beginning late March with National Earth Hour and extending through Earth Month in April. Volunteers keep our eco-activity on-line calendar up to date with about 70 events and specific events are featured in the Tri-City Herald, on Facebook, and on other media sources.

## Go Green Tri-Cities – Eco-Activities, Education & Social Media

Go Green Tri-Cities, a committee of SEEnet, provides outreach to educate the community on local, state, and nationwide environmental issues. Early in 2014, the long-standing Earth Month website merged with Go Green Tri-Cities to provide information year-round. The GGTC website has strived to be the central place for the community to learn about environmental issues and events, find local environmental groups and other community resources, and provide a wealth of information on how to live in a more eco-friendly way. It also includes the Green Pages directory, a listing of businesses providing eco-friendly products and services available in this area.

GGTC committee members work together to provide environmental education by tabling at events, volunteering in the classroom, holding or promoting eco-related events and sharing timely information on Facebook.

Besides participating in the events listed below, GGTC also maintains a calendar for local green events and posts several times a week to our Facebook page. Engagement is at an all-time high with lots of activity on both the website and Facebook pages. The directory and website are maintained by volunteers, as is all of the work of this committee. The committee members have many ideas for ways to expand environmental education but are limited as a volunteer organization. Funding a part-time position to keep the website current and provide outreach to the community could include establishing Green clubs in high schools and so much more.

**As supporters of SEEnet, as well as the Tri-Cities business environment, our sponsors are helping to provide environmental education - maintaining and improving the quality of life we enjoy here.**

## 2017 Projects and Partnerships

Jan – Dec Outreach - STEAM activities, and club meetings: *Richland elementary schools (soils unit), Richland library STEAM Space, Chiawana HS (Pasco) Ecology Club, Chinook MS (Kennewick) science classes, etc.*

March – Earth Hour – REACH Museum (50 people) *TC Astronomy, Audubon Society, Citizens' Climate Lobby*

April – Tri-Cities Earth Month, eco-events promoted all over Tri-Cities (Est 2,000 people)

April 19 – Climate Change and Solar Energy Forum, WSU-TC Auditorium (35 people) *Citizens' Climate Lobby*

April 22 – Science Celebration and March for Science - John Dam Plaza (750 people) *TC Science Educators*

April 29 – Peoples Climate Festival, John Dam Plaza (200 people) *Citizens' Climate Lobby*

April 29 – Electrathon Expo & Derby, (75 people) *Franklin PUD, Mid Col. Electrical Vehicles Association*

August 19 - Bike-In Event and Movie, John Dam Plaza (150 attendees) –*Wheelhouse Community Bike Shop, Kenn., City of Richland*

August – Partnership with *CRE8 Community Reuse Emporium, Benton City and Perfect Image Leadership Foundation.*

August 29 - Back-to-School Repair and Share Event - *Pasco Library (20 people) Pasco School Dist., Chiawana HS, Mid-Columbia Library, Pasco Branch*

September – December, Variety of event promo's, fun facts, eco-updates and tips. ALSC merging discussions

## Financial Contributions Funded

- The operation and advertising costs of Go Green Tri-Cities Web and Facebook Pages, (includes the Green Business Directory, Calendar of Eco-Events, Community Resource Information, How-To Pages, and 700 Facebook followers).
- Co-hosted the rental of the REACH and student prizes awarded during the event.
- The Delta Electric Vehicle Engineering Club and the materials for building their EV derby cars.
- The operation and prizes for the Electrathon Expo and Derby Race. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/412602465773601>.
- Bicycle head and tail light giveaway for the Bike in and Outdoor Movie at John Dam Plaza. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/747522818768676/>.
- Back to School Repair and Share Event, See <https://www.facebook.com/events/144673432788199>.
- Various event/activity advertising costs. See <https://www.facebook.com/gogreentricities>.
- Contribution of funds to the new CRE8 Community Resource Emporium in Benton City to help with startup and operations. See <https://www.facebook.com/CRE8today>.

## 2018 Goals

Future goals include hosting more family science movies/events, co-organizing a local Livable and Sustainable Community Forum, monthly E-newsletter, holding Repair and Share events (fix, give-away table), and facilitating additional sustainable-focused action by developing a process to “grant” funds for citizen-driven projects and events, and incorporate or merge with the Alliance for a Livable Sustainable Community (ALSC). The Delta EV Engineering Club has officially merged with Tri-Tech’s welding program. 15 Students from around the Tri-Cities have chosen officers and are already in the design phase as of November.

## The Sustainable Energy and Environmental Network 2017 Executive Summary

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## Thank You 2017 Sponsors!

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