

RCEN e-Bulletin – February 18, 2009 Edition

Network News

RCEN AGA 2009: Cities and Biodiversity

This year's Annual General Assembly will take place from June 12-14 in Edmonton, Alberta. Under the theme of *Cities and Biodiversity*, speakers at the 2009 AGA will explore the relationship between urban areas and biodiversity: from the impact of their demand for resources, to the possibilities of growing more food locally and the benefits of natural areas within cities. Note that the last day of the Assembly will dovetail with the opening of the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability World Congress (see *Events*).

Registration for the event and a draft agenda will be available soon. Visit [the RCEN's AGA 2009 webpage](#) for regular news updates and information.

Sharing Your Stories

This year, the RCEN is exploring new ways for members to share their stories, experiences and best practices with environmental groups across Canada. Current suggestions include photo slide shows, an ENGO video wall on our website, and publishing interviews with individual members.

Please take a moment to [send us your ideas by email](#). Next week, we will post your suggestions in the e-Bulletin and let you vote on which ones you think are best.

Calls for Delegates

Workshop to Examine Sulphur and Nitrogen Deposition Issues in Western Canada

The RCEN has been invited by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) to select 3 ENGO delegates for a one and a half day workshop to examine sulphur and nitrogen deposition issues in western Canada. The workshop objectives are: to assess the state of the science on atmospheric deposition of sulphur and nitrogen and ecosystem impacts in Western Canada; to develop an understanding of the implications of the latest science to current policies and programs aimed at addressing acid and nitrogen deposition; and to identify areas for future concentration for Canada's acid rain science and policy efforts in western Canada. The workshop will take place in Banff, Alberta, from April 28-29, 2009. The deadline for applications is March 6, 2009. [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

ENGO Participation in Strategizing Session for a Commission for Sustainable Development Policy Concept Paper

The RCEN has been invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs Canada to select 7 ENGO groups to participate in the development of a Policy Concept Paper leading up to the seventeenth Commission for Sustainable Development cycle (CSD-17) from May 4-15, 2009. Selected ENGOs will participate in a teleconference call in March (date to be determined) to prepare the Policy Concept Paper, which will include: a brief history of the CSD process; a description of the current implementation cycle leading up to CSD-17 within the context of the CSD process; and policy options and alternatives specific to CSD-17 thematic issues. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 25, 2009. [Read the full Call for Delegates](#)

Other Calls

Call for Comments: CCME Consultation on Environmental Assessment Processes

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) is consulting the public on options to streamline environmental assessments subject to both provincial/territorial and federal assessments. CCME is seeking comments on two papers: *One Project-One Assessment Approach to Environmental Assessment*; and *Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment*. The desired outcome is that decisions on environmental assessments for projects be made in a certain, predictable, efficient and timely manner, while safeguarding the environment. The public consultation period will be held between February 9 and March 20, 2009. For more information, and to read the papers, please [refer to the CCME website](#) or contact [Natalie Deschamps](#) at 613-957-0366.

Call for Participation: Important Survey on Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (EPA) Caucus of the RCEN is carrying out a survey of people who have been involved in federal environmental assessment. The information will be helpful in giving a clear picture of the problems participants have been experiencing across the country. [Please take 20-30 minutes to improve environmental assessment in Canada](#). Feel free to forward the survey out to other interested members who may not have received this email, and to any individuals that have experience in environmental assessment. The Caucus will be making the results available on the RCEN web site and as well, present them to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Please complete the survey and return to [Gary Schneider](#), Co-chair of the EPA Caucus. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Announcements

Earth Day Canada's Hometown Heroes Award Program

The Hometown Heroes Award Program, established by Earth Day Canada in 2004, recognizes and celebrates environmental leaders who foster meaningful, long-term community awareness and action. Become Canada's 2009 environmental hero and receive a cash-prize of \$10,000 - \$5,000 to keep and \$5,000 to donate to the environmental cause of your choice. Earth Day Canada will consider candidates who: demonstrate outstanding environmental leadership, commitment and achievements in their communities; and carry out not-for-profit environmental efforts, with notable accomplishments in the past two years or a single outstanding environmental initiative in 2008. Nominate yourself, an individual or group from your community by Earth Day 2009. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.earthday.ca/hometown/index.php>.

Events

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability World Congress

The ICLEI World Congress 2009, June 14-18 in Edmonton, Alberta, will showcase ICLEI members' vast work on advancing sustainability, for and about local governments. The five-day event will be an opportunity to learn about the achievements of the most advanced cities and towns in the world, and to build upon past successes to advance local action for sustainability. Join mayors, local governments, and colleagues, as more than 800 delegates worldwide come together in Edmonton. The program will be enriched by global strategists sharing their vision on

the opportunities and challenges for local governments in the coming decade. Visit www.iclei.org/worldcongress2009 for registration details.

5th World Environmental Education Congress NGO Forum

The 5th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC), taking place from May 10 to 14, 2009 in Montreal, will feature an NGO Forum to allow non-profit organizations operating in the field of environmental education to showcase their programs, projects, productions and achievements. It will also be a venue for network-building with other organizations sharing similar goals on all continents. To become a participating player in the NGO Forum, interested groups must complete a registration form and submit it with their proposal. Once the proposal is accepted, registration for the Congress must be completed by February 27th to benefit from the special early-bird NGO rate of \$400. For more details about the 5th WEEC NGO Forum, please visit <http://www.5weec.uqam.ca>.

Employment

Greenpeace – Forest Campaigner (Toronto)

Greenpeace Canada is seeking an experienced bilingual campaigner to work on their Boreal Forest campaign. Candidates should have a minimum of 2 years' campaign experience, and a proven record on developing and implementing successful campaign strategies. As a Greenpeace campaigner, you will be required: to represent Greenpeace at meetings with senior industry and government officials; to act as a spokesperson to the media and at public events; to work with scientists and policy makers. A successful candidate will have excellent communication and negotiation skills, and preferably a degree in forestry, ecology or environmental science. This position is based in Toronto, ON. The deadline for applications is March 3, 2009. Visit <http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/job-opportunities> for more details.