

# **International Compendium of Urban Ecology Organizations**

Compiled by Travis Deeter  
© Institute of Urban Ecology 2003

# **Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology** **(ARCUE)**

## **Location:**

Melbourne, Australia

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Dr. Mark McDonell

Mailing Address: Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology

C/o School of Botany

The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010

Australia

Phone: +61 (03) 8344 0146

Fax: +61 (03) 9347 5460

Email: [arcue@rbg.vic.gov.au](mailto:arcue@rbg.vic.gov.au)

Web Address: <http://arcue.rbg.vic.gov.au>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Support from the Baker Foundation

Office and Lab space in the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne

## **Description:**

ARCUE was created in 1998. Overall scope of the centre's activities includes basic and applied research, undergraduate, honours, and postgraduate training, long-term ecological studies, community education and training programs, policy management and advice to all levels of government and consultancy services. Area of activities are concentrated on urban areas throughout Australia, especially Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin, Brisbane, and Hobart.

Examples of research projects:

- The response of plants and animals to urban environments
- The effects of landscape fragmentation on ecosystems
- The role of anthropogenic disturbance frequencies

Examples of conservation/restoration:

- revegetation efficacy analysis of a creek management committee program
- examination of an invasive weed's ecology and an assessment of the threat posed to local mudflats

Examples of education:

- no actual outreach program for community
- create online databases and other forms of information that can be used by general public, teachers, students, governments for educational purposes

**Publications:**

“A Reference Guide to the Ecology and Natural Resources of the Melbourne Region.”  
1999.

“Directions in Revegetation and Regeneration in Victoria.” 1999.  
Annual newsletter entitled “Spotlight.”

**Notes:**

Publications are available online in .pdf format

Appears to be more of an academic organization than one that focuses on community participation.

# **Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment** **(BCUE)**

## **Location:**

Brooklyn, NY, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Executive Director, Dr. Sandi D. Franklin

Mailing Address: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment

The Tennis House

Prospect Park

Brooklyn, NY

11215-9992

Phone: 718-788-8500

Fax: 718-499-3750

Email: [info@bcue.org](mailto:info@bcue.org)

Web Address: <http://www.bcue.org>

## **Support and/or Funding**

\$660 000 capital investment to revitalize the Tennis House, the centre's headquarters

## **Description:**

The BCUE was created in 1978. Overall activities include in-class education in public schools, community enhancement projects, professional development workshops for teachers, and weekend tour walks of local environmental sites. They also run a recycling program for used ink cartridges and used cell phones. Area of activities is in the Brooklyn suburb.

Examples of education:

- have over 60 different programs, serve over 28000 children annually.
- Provide education in classrooms, parks, community centres, riverfront, their own centre classrooms

Examples of community enhancements:

- focus on educating and enhancing areas of highest concern, working hands-on with the residents to conduct workshops and physical improvements
- ie. vacant lots, abandoned buildings, etc.

Examples of professional development:

- conduct over 100 Pro-D workshops a year
- range from how to make a park visit exciting for kids to incorporating environmental studies into regular curriculum

## **Notes:**

Very community and education minded group, focus very little on research

# **Buffalo Institute of Urban Ecology, Inc.** **(BIUE)**

## **Location:**

Buffalo, NY, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Jay Burney

Mailing Address: 1645 Statler Towers  
107 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222

Phone: 716-845-6993

Fax: N/A

Email: [jburney@apollo3.com](mailto:jburney@apollo3.com)

Web Address: <http://members.xoom.com/biue>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Not available

## **Description:**

The BIUE was established in 1996. Institute has the following primary goals:

- Promote a better understanding of urban ecology within government, the community, and schools
- Promote positive economic impact on involved communities
- Work with underprivileged and disadvantaged community sectors
- Foster activities to help regenerate neighbourhoods
- Collect and disseminate data and information relative to the environment and urban ecology

Areas of activities are concentrated around the Buffalo area, particularly in the Niagara River Corridor. Also act as consultants.

Examples of education:

- Every Day Is Earth Day ecology fairs in public schools
- Creation of a Montessori outdoor learning centre

Example of research projects:

- City of Buffalo Environmental Indicators Project

Examples of community/government contributions:

- City of Pesticide Management Board
- Niagara River Globally Significant Important Bird Area Coalition
- Partner with City on development of environmental education material

**Publications:**

“Greenwatch” article published in the Alternative Press

Develop and manufacture products with a media and/or educational perspective

**Notes:**

Website doesn't seem to be working at the moment (Nov. 15, 2002), information was gathered through other sources

# **Center for Urban Ecology** **(CUE)**

## **Location:**

Washington, DC, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Chief, Jim Sherald

Mailing Address: C/o National Park Service  
4598 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
Washington, DC 20007-4227

Phone: 202-342-1443

Fax: 202-282-1031

Email: [jim\\_sherald@nps.gov](mailto:jim_sherald@nps.gov)

Web Address: <http://www.nps.gov/cue>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Branch of the National Park Service

## **Description:**

The CUE was established in 1973 to function as the natural science arm of the NPS. In 1993 the newly created US National Biological Service (NBS) moved in to share office with the CUE. Currently the CUE consists of a multi-disciplinary team of scientists and technicians committed to developing a better understanding of the ecology of landscapes influenced by human activities. Conduct mainly research projects, with little or no community involvement. Area of activities is concentrated in 11 major park units in the DC area and surrounding states.

Examples of research topics:

- soils and soil compaction
- site evaluation
- turf management and organic waste recycling
- wildland ecology and exotic plant management
- urban wildlife
- plant health and integrated pest management

## **Notes:**

Basically a government organization specializing in urban ecology

# **Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability** **(CUES)**

## **Location:**

St. Paul, MN, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Associate Professor, Dr. Vera Krischik

Mailing Address: C/o Dept. of Entomology

University of Minnesota

219 Hodson Hall

1980 Folwell Ave

St. Paul, MN 55108

Phone: 612-625-7044

Fax: N/A

Email: [krisc001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:krisc001@tc.umn.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.entomology.umn.edu/cues>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

A Minnesota Extension Service Collegiate grant funded creation

## **Description:**

CUES was created in 1995. It is an academic organization whose goal is to educate landscape managers and urban residents about ways to embrace environmental stewardship by practicing sustainable management. Have four major principles:

- 1) Conserving biodiversity
- 2) Restoring Native Vegetation
- 3) Promoting nutrient recycling through composting
- 4) Using integrated pest management to control insects and diseases

They provide educational materials to educators, homeowners, and landscape managers from their resource centre, but do not appear to go out into the community to conduct regular workshops. More of a research and project-oriented organization. Operate mainly in the Twin Cities area.

## **Publications:**

12 publications, most in the form of informative brochures/scripts. Available online from their website.

## **Notes:**

Excellent workshops scripts available online for educational purposes.

# **Center for Urban Forest Research** **(CUFR)**

## **Location:**

Davis, CA, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Greg McPherson

Mailing Address: Center for Urban Forest Research

PSW Research Station

USDA Forest Service

C/o Department of Environmental Horticulture

Suite 1103

One Shields Avenue

Davis CA 95616

Phone: 530 752 7636

Fax: 530 752 6634

Email: [cufr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cufr@ucdavis.edu)

Web Address: <http://wcufre.ucdavis.edu>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Not available

## **Description:**

The CUFR started in 1992. It was formed to provide a variety of services to the community and private sector with regards to urban forest development and sustainability. Its employees conduct research that quantifies the values of urban forests, create new methods and strategies for the caring of urban forests, deliver workshops at seminars and conferences based on their research findings, and also provide technical assistance to help solve problems. The area where most of their efforts are applied is in Davis and California in general.

Examples of research:

- effects of residential trees on air quality
- quantifying benefits and costs of Modesto's Urban Forest

## **Publications:**

Publish a quarterly newsletter about their research and events

Also have numerous published articles in many scientific journals

## **Notes:**

Not much community education involvement or enhancement, mainly advising and research oriented.

# **Center for Urban Restoration Ecology** **(CURE)**

## **Location:**

New Brunswick, NJ, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Steven N. Handel

Mailing Address: Center for Urban Restoration Ecology

1 College Farm Road

New Brunswick, NJ 08901 – 1582

Phone: 732 932 8165 ext. 101

Fax: 732 932 2972

Email: [cure@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:cure@aesop.rutgers.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.i-cure.org>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Strong collaboration between the Center, a division of Rutgers University, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Grants from the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and the National Park Service.

## **Description:**

Date not available. The Center is an academic institution based out of Rutgers University, with its staff mainly consisting of professors from the university, along with graduate and undergraduate students. Mainly conduct research projects that come from a steering committee made up of university professors and Botanic Garden representatives. They also provide educational workshops that are open to the public to attend, as well as university courses for students on a wide range of topics. Activities focus mainly in the Tri-Cities area, but also in urban environments in general.

Examples of research:

- impact of invasive plants on parkland
- restoration of previous waste sites into productive habitat

Examples of workshops:

- ecology of urban wetlands
- control of invasive plants

## **Publications:**

Produces printed and web-based material for professionals and the general public

## **Notes:**

Research oriented institute, little community involvement, and most workshops focus on material related to professional greenspace management



# **Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology** **(CURE)**

## **Location:**

Manchester, England

## **Contact Information:**

Director, John Handley

Mailing Address: CURE

School of Planning & Landscape  
University of Manchester  
Manchester M13 9PL  
England

Phone: +44 (0) 161 275 6920/38

Fax: +44 (0) 161 275 6917

Email: [cure@man.ac.uk](mailto:cure@man.ac.uk)

Web Address: <http://art.man.ac.uk/planning/cure>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

A division of the School of Planning and Landscape at the University of Manchester

Lists funding sources as research councils, research foundations, government, industry

## **Description:**

CURE was established in 1999. It's primary reason for being created was to address the research agendas of regionalism, sustainability, and the rebuilding of environmental capital. Most research is accomplished through PhD theses being done by students involved with the centre. All staff except for two are either professors or PhD students. Research is conducted in the Manchester area, as well as in other parts of England.

Examples of research:

- improving the effectiveness of land restoration
- planning for sustainability between regions

## **Publications:**

Numerous published articles in scientific journals

## **Notes:**

No community involvement at all, strictly an academic institution focused on research

# **Centre for Urban Ecology** **(CUE)**

## **Location:**

Adelaide, Australia

## **Contact Information:**

Coordinator, Cherie Hoyle

Mailing Address: Centre for Urban Ecology  
105 Sturt Street  
Adelaide  
Tandanya Bioregion SA 5000  
Australia

Phone: +61 8 8212 6760

Fax: +61 8 8212 6760

Email: [urbanec@urbanecology.org.au](mailto:urbanec@urbanecology.org.au)

Web Address: <http://urbanecology.org.au>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Not Available

## **Description:**

A community minded organization, CUE was started in 1993. It is staffed mainly by volunteers, and is also the headquarters for Urban Ecology Australia. Provides a place where people can go to get information about energy conservation, revegetation, ecological restoration, and urban ecology issues in general. Help to promote ecological initiatives and projects in the area. Many initiatives are locally based, but Urban Ecology Australia conducts projects all over the country.

Examples of projects:

- ecological development of an ex-industrial site in Adelaide

## **Publications:**

The Centre provides free brochures on a various topics, as well as purchasable books

## **Notes:**

Looks like a relatively small centre, although being the headquarters for UEA gives it a much larger impact on the community and environment.

# **Committee on Urban Environment** **(CUE)**

## **Location:**

Minneapolis, MN, United States

## **Contact Information:**

N/A

Mailing Address: Minneapolis Planning Department  
Committee on Urban Environment  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Room 210  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1385

Phone: 612 673 3014

Fax: N/A

Email: [cue@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cue@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Web Address: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/planning/cue>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Department of the city government

## **Description:**

The CUE was created in 1968 to serve as a citizen advisory committee to the City Council and Planning Commission. It encourages the development of natural and built beauty, aesthetics, and historic landmarks. They also have sub-committees that work directly with the public to beautify and improve the urban environment of the city through greening. Its area of activities is focused in Minneapolis.

Example of projects:

- "Blooming Boulevards" – rewards urban gardeners and landscapers for creating visible gardens and habitat

## **Publications:**

N/A

# **Danish Centre for Urban Ecology** **(DCUE)**

## **Location:**

Arhus, Denmark

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Anders Pedersen

Mailing Address: Dansk Center for Byokologi

Jaegergardsgade 97

Postboks 5095

DK-8100 Arhus C

Denmark

Phone: 89 40 58 80

Fax: 89 40 58 84

Email: [dcue@dcue.dk](mailto:dcue@dcue.dk)

Web Address: <http://www.dcue.dk>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Founded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Energy, and the Municipality of Arhus

## **Description:**

The DCUE was founded in 1994. It is a national centre that's main objective is the gathering and dissemination of information on urban ecology. They also provide overviews of both worldwide and local initiatives within the field of urban ecology. The centre is staffed by professional consultants whose areas of expertise include urban nature and planning, building, and consumption patterns. They also work closely with the Danish Urban Ecology Association, a network of public authorities, researchers, businesses, and grass roots organizations focused on urban ecological issues. The centre arranges workshops, seminars, and study tours on various topics of urban ecology, including solar energy, sustainable cities, and green accounting.

## **Publications:**

"Danish Urban Ecology" – a quarterly journal

Small newsletter six times per year

## **Notes:**

Web site at this point is mostly in Danish with only a small English summary

# **ECOPLAN: Ecology and Urban Planning**

## **Location:**

Helsinki, Finland

## **Contact Information:**

Team Leader, Jari Niemelä

Mailing Address: ECOPLAN

Department of Ecology and Systematics

P.O. Box 17

FIN-00014 University of Helsinki

Finland

Phone: +358 9 1917391

Fax: +358 9 1917301

Email: [jari.niemela@helsinki.fi](mailto:jari.niemela@helsinki.fi)

Web Address: <http://www.helsinki.fi/~niemela/ecoplan>

## **Support and/or Funding**

Finnish Biodiversite Research Programme

## **Description:**

This group was created in a joint venture between the University of Helsinki, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, and the University of Joensuu to conduct multidisciplinary research projects on the subject of urban ecology. Their main goals are:

- study urban ecology as it relates to urban planning and management
- develop better methods for the incorporation of ecological knowledge into planning and maintenance of urban green areas
- strengthen urban ecological research in Finland

The group is staffed by professors and researchers from the two universities and the institute. This is strictly an academic research group, with no community involvement.

Examples of research projects:

- effects on vegetation and fauna of fragmentation of urban forests
- trampling disturbance and natural regeneration of urban forests
- integrating ecological and aesthetic aspects in urban forest planning and management

## **Publications:**

Numerous articles in various scientific journals

# **Environment Research and Studies Centre** **(ERSC)**

## **Location:**

Edmonton, Alberta

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Dr. Ray Rasmussen

Mailing Address: Environment Research Studies Centre

3-23 Business Building

University of Alberta

Edmonton, AB

T6G 2R6

Phone: 1 780 492 5825

Fax: 1 780 492 3325

Email: [ersc@ualberta.ca](mailto:ersc@ualberta.ca)

Web: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~ersc>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Receives funding from TransAlta, as well as accepts private donations.

## **Description:**

The ERSC was created in 1990. Their primary goal is to act as a coordination and information agency for the environmental research and studies programs at the University of Alberta, but also for the dissemination of information about current environmental issues in Alberta as well as around the world. On their website are many different resources for the public and professionals alike to use for educational purposes. It also has links to various environmental organizations and projects that are at the university and around the province. It is comprised wholly of professors at the university, who conduct research on various topics relating to the environmental field.

## **Publications:**

“Environmental News” newsletter put out by UofA students

## **Notes:**

Mainly just a resource centre

# **European Academy of the Urban Environment** **(EAUE)**

## **Location:**

Berlin, Germany

## **Contact Information:**

Managing Director, Dr. Hanns-Uve Schwedler

Mailing Address: European Academy of the Urban Environment

Bismarckallee 46-48

D-14193 Berlin

Germany

Phone: +49 30 89 59 99 0

Fax: +49 30 89 59 99 19

Email: [am@eaue.de](mailto:am@eaue.de)

Web Address: <http://www.eaue.de>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Principal sources are Land Berlin and the Commission of European Communities

Other donations from two German Länder, the federal government and several European cities

## **Description:**

The EAUE was setup in 1992 by the Berlin Senat and the European Parliament. Their main purpose is to facilitate both the transition towards sustainable development and cooperation between the capital cities of Central Europe as well as between other European cities. They accomplish these goals by means of conferences, seminars, and workshops it puts on, as well as through its publications. They target decision-makers at the national, regional, and local level, as well as private sector representatives, freelance consultants and NGOs.

Examples of areas of concern:

- urban traffic and transport
- environmentally compatible and careful urban renewal and redevelopment
- careful and climate oriented urban planning

## **Publications:**

Various articles on topics they focus on

Conference and seminar proceedings

## **Notes:**

Seems very focussed on Europe, not much community involvement or public education.

# **Hixon Center for Urban Ecology** **(HCUE)**

## **Location:**

New Haven, CT, United States

## **Contact Information**

Contact person, Colleen Murphy Dunning

Mailing Address: Hixon Center for Urban Ecology

205 Prospect Street

New Haven, CT 06511

United States

Phone: 203 432 6570

Email: [colleen.murphy-dunning@yale.edu](mailto:colleen.murphy-dunning@yale.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.yale.edu/hixon>

## **Support and/or Funding**

Started by a grant Alec and Adelaide Hixon, University funding as well.

## **Description:**

The HCUE is operated out of Yale University, and is actually an umbrella organization for 3 component research centres: the Urban Resources Initiative (URI), the Center for Coastal and Watershed Systems (CCWS), and the Yale/UNDP Collaborative Program on the Urban Environment. The mission of the HCUE is to provide a forum for scholars and practitioners to work collaboratively on integrated research, teaching, and outreach to improve understanding of urban environmental issues within the US and around the world. The three research centres try to achieve this goal through different means. The URI is heavily involved in community stewardship and environmental education, and advances the practice of urban forestry. The CCWS is more research oriented, focusing on coastal waters and watershed issues. And the Yale-UNDP partnership works to collect and analyze information on past public-private partnerships in order to improve delivery of urban environmental services.

Examples of activities:

- community-lead restoration of streetscapes and abandoned lots
- non-point source pollution assessments

## **Publications:**

“Urban Issues” newsletter

Numerous articles published in scientific journals

## **Notes:**

The three organizations seem quite distinct and separate. Website has broken links

# **Institute of Agricultural and Urban Ecology Projects** **(IAUEP)**

## **Location:**

Berlin, Germany

## **Contact Information:**

Professor, Dr. Robert Sauerbrey

Mailing Address: Humboldt University Berlin

Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture

Invalidenstr 42

D-10115 Berlin

Germany

Phone: +49 30 2093-8683

Email: [r.sauerbrey@agrار.hu-berlin.de](mailto:r.sauerbrey@agrار.hu-berlin.de)

Web Address: <http://www.hu-berlin.de/forschung/aninst/aninste.htm>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

N/A

## **Description:**

The IAUEP is a sub-department at the Humboldt University in Berlin. It is mainly a research institute, focussing on both theoretical and practical solutions in the interdisciplinary field of agriculture and urban ecology. No community involvement.

Example of research:

- naturation of urban building sites and open spaces and the subsequently vital production of plant material for the urban agriculture in large cities

## **Publications:**

None listed

## **Notes:**

Website is mostly in German, this information is from a small English summary.

# **Institute of Ecology** **(IOE)**

## **Location:**

Athens, GA, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Dr. C. Ronald Carroll

Mailing Address: Institute of Ecology  
University of Georgia  
Ecology Building  
Athens, GA 30602-2202  
United States

Phone: 706 542 2968

Fax: 706 542 4819

Email: [rcarroll@arches.uga.edu](mailto:rcarroll@arches.uga.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.ecology.uga.edu>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Grants from the NSF, Dept. of Energy, EPA, and the Dept. of Agriculture

## **Description:**

The IOE is the primary unit for ecological research and teaching at the university. They administer research grants, organize special seminars and workshops, conduct research on a variety of topics, as well as advise on policy development and help communities with improvements to their local habitat. They are most active in the state of Georgia, but also do work on national and international problems.

Examples of research:

- study threats to habitat of endangered fish and aquatic organisms
- identify areas of high biodiversity

Examples of community involvement:

- coordinate volunteer opportunities
- provide guides on various urban issues

## **Publications:**

Many different guides available online in .pdf format on various topics  
Some scientific papers published in journals

## **Notes:**

Seem similar to the IUE, except with less of a community enhancement focus, more of policy and advising

# **Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad** **(INBio)**

## **Location:**

Santo Domingo, Costa Rica

## **Contact Information:**

General Director, Gámez Lobo Rodrigo

Mailing Address: INBio

P.O. Box Apdo. 22-3100  
Santo Domingo de Heredia  
Costa Rica

Phone: 506 244 0690

Fax: 506 244 2816

Email: [askinbio@inbio.ac.cr](mailto:askinbio@inbio.ac.cr)

Web Address: <http://www.inbio.ac.cr/en>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Receives grants from sources such as the Swedish International Development Agency, Government of Holland, the World Bank, and several private sector agreements

## **Description:**

INBio was created by Costa Rica as a national scientific institute in 1989. Its main purpose is to promote awareness of the value of biodiversity, and thereby achieve its conservation for future generations. They realize this goal through biophysical inventories, research of sustainable uses of biodiversity, and organization and dissemination of biodiversity knowledge. INBio also lobbies for the use of biodiversity knowledge in such areas as national planning, education curriculum, ecological tourism, and agriculture development. They provide workshops and conferences for government officers, students, regional experts, and international organizations. It is most active in Santo Domingo, but has interests in all of Costa Rica.

Example of research:

- produced the National Biodiversity Inventory

## **Publications:**

Numerous biodiversity-related publications, including inventories, some only available in Spanish

# **International Institute for the Urban Environment** **(IIUE)**

## **Location:**

Delft, The Netherlands

## **Contact Information:**

Director, Tjeerd Deelstra

Mailing Address: International Institute for the Urban Environment

Nickersteeg 5  
2611 EK Delft  
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 15 262 3279

Fax: +31 15 262 4873

Email: [iiue@urban.nl](mailto:iiue@urban.nl)

Web Address: <http://www.urban.nl>

## **Support and/or Funding**

Member of the Network of Urban Forums for Sustainable Development

## **Description:**

The IIUE was established in 1989 to promote sustainability as a major consideration in urban development. It takes a broad view of sustainability, looking at ecological, social, and economic aspects. One of its main activities is to research and promote the use of environmentally sound new technology in existing urban areas. It accomplishes these goals through developing practice prototypes for others to follow, raising awareness for sustainability, conducting research on the subject, and delivering workshops and conferences to groups from around the world. It is most active in the European arena.

Examples of activities:

- It Takes Two: project to revitalize high-rise areas in five European cities
- ANSEA: an analytical strategic environmental assessment

## **Publications:**

Books on various subjects, including *Indicators for Sustainable Development*, and *Let's Clear the Air*

## **Notes:**

Think tank type of organization, little community involvement. I have been in contact with this group and they are willing to answer questions or provide information

# **New Ecology, Inc.**

## **(NEI)**

### **Location:**

Cambridge, MA, United States

### **Contact Information:**

President, William Shutkin

Mailing Address: New Ecology, Inc.

Greenworks Building

160 Second Street

Cambridge, MA 02142

United States

Phone: 617 354 4099

Fax: 617 354 4098

Email: [info@newecology.org](mailto:info@newecology.org)

Web Address: <http://www.newecology.org>

### **Support and/or Funding:**

Receives funding from a variety of sources, including The Boston Foundation, the Ittleson Foundation, the Merck Family fund, and the U.S. EPA.

### **Description:**

NEI was founded in 1999 to spearhead sustainable development in distressed urban communities in New England. It is a group that helps community organizations, businesses, and municipalities to implement environmentally responsible projects and ideas using law, planning, and advocacy. Its main services include delivering workshops in sustainable development, linking people and institutions together with resources for sustainable development projects, and also designing and championing projects that offer valuable insights into the best practice of sustainable development.

Examples of projects:

- coordinate and host with MIT the annual Regional Sustainable Development Forums
- educate graduate student interns on sustainable development through practicum

### **Publications:**

Produce a newsletter called *Field Notes*

*The Environmentalist's Axe*

Numerous online proceedings from past conferences

Articles in various journals and newspapers

# **The North St. Paul Urban Ecology Center** **(NSPUEC)**

## **Location:**

St. Paul, MN, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Project Manager, Joan I. Nassauer

Mailing Address: University of Minnesota

Department of Landscape Architecture

89 Church Street Southeast

Minneapolis, MN 55455

United States

Phone: 612 763 9893

Email: [nassauer@umich.edu](mailto:nassauer@umich.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.snre.umich.edu/NSP/NSPCover3.html>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## **Description:**

The NSPUEC was started in 1997 with the transformation of an abandoned 20 acre sod farm into an urban ecology center that is used by both the public and students of Minneapolis. The center uses the farmland to show how the landscape in the city is still very much a part of nature. They conduct projects in the site to restore natural systems, such as a small wetlands area, public gardens of native vegetation, and maintaining existing areas of indigenous vegetation. They would also like to improve the overall biodiversity and ecological connectivity in the site and region. This group seems completely community-oriented, without any commercial activities. Its staff consists of some university professors, as well as community volunteers and other research assistants.

## **Publications:**

None

## **Tri-City Ecology Center** **(TCEC)**

### **Location:**

Fremont, CA, United States

### **Contact Information:**

No contact person listed

Mailing Address: Tri-City Ecology Center

P.O. Box 674

Fremont, CA 94537

United States

Phone: 510 793 6222

Email: [tcec@neptune.he.net](mailto:tcec@neptune.he.net)

Web Address: <http://www.tricityecology.org>

### **Support and/or Funding**

Appear to be supported through group membership fees and the work of many volunteers

### **Description:**

A community organization that relies entirely on volunteers for its staff, the TCEC is mainly a voice for environmental reform in the Tri-City area. They have been involved in promoting several environmental initiatives at both the regional and state levels, including the Fremont Hill Initiative of 2002 and the State Scenic Highway Designation project. They also have a community garden at the local history museum, and provide local environmental news on their website. This group is all about dissemination of what's happening in their community with regards to the environment, and providing a platform where citizens can pool their concerns in a concentrated fashion.

### **Publications:**

Publish an almost monthly newsletter called *Ecologic*

# **Urban Ecology** **(UE)**

## **Location:**

Oakland, CA, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Executive Director, Rachel Peterson

Mailing Address: Urban Ecology  
414 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Oakland, CA 94612  
United States

Phone: 510 251 6330

Fax: 510 251 2117

Email: [urbanecology@urbanecology.org](mailto:urbanecology@urbanecology.org)

Web Address: <http://urbanecology.org>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Many supporters, including the Ark Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Gasbilan Foundation, San Francisco Foundation and the Rose Foundation

## **Description:**

UE is a group that works with government, developers, and grassroots organizations to plan and design sustainable communities and cities. They try to construct guidelines that are socially, environmentally, and economically responsible. They also conduct workshops and hold seminars open to the public to inform people about development issues and how to become more active in the development process in their neighbourhoods. UE has also been involved in looking at transportation issues in the Bay Area, and is part of a larger group working to find solutions to these problems. Their staff is drawn from many fields, including university professors, landscape architects, and environmental consultants.

Examples of community projects:

- 24<sup>th</sup> Street BART Plaza
- Visitacion Valley Center

## **Publications:**

Magazine called *Urban Ecology*

# **Urban Ecology Centre** **(UEC)**

## **Location:**

Montreal, Quebec

## **Contact Information:**

Executive Director, Lucia Kowaluk

Mailing Address: Urban Ecology Centre

C.P. 473

Succ. Place du Parc

Montreal, Que.

H2W 2N9

Phone: 514 282 8378

Fax: 514 985 9725

Email: [sodecm@web.net](mailto:sodecm@web.net)

Web Address: <http://www.urbanecology.net/UEC>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

Receives funding from individual donations, private foundations, and government

## **Description:**

The UEC is a think-tank type of organization, with an important social action dimension. Its goal is to build and share expertise concerning the most viable approaches to sustainable urban development. They are very focussed on informing the public about the issues related to sustainable development, and aim to stimulate debate and promote greater awareness in the field of urban development. They provide workshops for children and adults alike, as well as hold conferences and seminars on the topic of sustainable development. The UEC also construct new ecological models for buildings and urban design. Their end goal is to ultimately contribute to changes in policy and in the day-to-day habits of Montreal's citizens. The UEC is actually part of a larger organization called SODECM: Société de développement communautaire de Montreal. This group also runs the community newspaper *Place Publique* and administers the funding for the UEC.

## **Publications:**

*Place Publique* newspaper

# **Urban Ecology Coalition** **(UEC)**

## **Location:**

Minneapolis, MN, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Coordinator, Ken Meter

Mailing Address: Urban Ecology Coalition

PO Box 7423

Minneapolis, MN 55407

United States

Phone: 612 869 8664

Email: [kmeter@igc.apc.org](mailto:kmeter@igc.apc.org)

Web Address: <http://www.sustainable.doe.gov/measuring/meneighbor.shtml>

## **Description:**

The UEC was started in 1997 to help jumpstart a project called Neighbourhood Sustainability Indicators. The project aims to assist Minneapolis neighbourhoods that seek to become more sustainable in identifying indicators to assess their progress towards that goal. The project also hopes to encourage the city to adopt these resident-defined indicators as official neighbourhood indicators of sustainability. The project was the first of its kind in the U.S. and has sparked similar efforts in other cities, such as Pittsburgh, Oakland, and Baltimore.

## **Publications:**

None

## **Notes:**

Not much information about this group, they actually don't even have their own website, only listed through the city's site about the project.

# **Urban Ecology Research Laboratory** **(UERL)**

## **Location:**

Seattle, WA, United States

## **Contact Information:**

Primary contact, Dr. Marina Alberti

Mailing Address: Urban Ecology Research Laboratory

Box 355740

Gould 410

University of Washington

Seattle WA 98195

United States

Phone: 206 616 9379

Email: [malberti@u.washington.edu](mailto:malberti@u.washington.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.urbaneco.washington.edu>

## **Support and/or Funding:**

The lab receives funding from 4 different departments at the university as well as through private sources

## **Description:**

The UERL opened in 1999, and was designed to empirically study the interactions between urban development and ecosystem dynamics. They mostly conduct research projects aimed at assessing the environmental implications of alternative development patterns. Most of the research is based on advanced GIS and remote sensing techniques, which is then used to develop models linking human development systems to ecological functioning. Their main area of focus is the Puget Sound Region. They do not seem to have any community focus at all, only academic.

Examples of research:

- land cover change analysis for the Western Puget Sound Region
- quantifying urban ecological gradients in the Puget Sound Region
- the impact of urban patterns on ecosystem dynamics

## **Publications:**

Published articles in various scientific journals

## Case Study I

### **Urban Ecology Center** **(UEC)**

**Location:**

Milwaukee, WI, United States

**Contact Information:**

Director, Ken Leinbach

Mailing Address: Urban Ecology Center

Riverside Park

2808 North Bartlett Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53211

Phone: 414 964 8505

Fax: 414 964 1084

Email: [uec@execpc.com](mailto:uec@execpc.com)

Web: <http://www.urbanecologycenter.org>

**Funding and/or Support:**

Conduct annual fundraising programs, charge program fees, receive grants, and rely heavily on volunteer support and donations

**History and Mission:**

In the 1980's a survey of Riverside Park was undertaken, and found it to be a rich source of local flora and fauna, and the idea to use it as a teaching laboratory for neighbourhood schools was born. The UEC was incorporated in 1991, and a small classroom building was established in the park in 1993. In 1995 the center took its first major step to becoming a community presence with the hiring of a part-time educator and director, and then in 1998 with two full-time positions. Each year since then has seen an expansion in the number of staff and programs run by the center, bringing the current number of workers to nine full-time positions and four part-time positions.

Its mission is to preserve, enhance, and use the natural resources of Riverside Park, the Milwaukee River, and the adjacent green spaces. The Center provides environmental science programs to nearby schools and also promotes environmental awareness in the community. The Center looks to teach learners of all ages about the natural world in their own community and how to maintain and enhance that natural environment, as well as demonstrate and promote choices that take the environment into consideration. The Center involves people from many different ethnic backgrounds and economic situations, striving to work with children, and adults, consistently throughout their education, not just during one-time field trips.

### **Education Programs:**

The UEC has developed a relationship with 12 schools in its neighbourhood that it delivers workshops to. Each school receives a package of 12 full-day field trips to be divided amongst the classes and grades at that school as the school sees fit. In this way, the Center believes it is better able to give consistent learning opportunities to the students of the schools year after year, rather than just a one-day field trip. Each participating school is also required to send a teacher representative to the Center's curriculum development meetings, creating more of a collaborative relationship between the schools and the Center rather than a service/client one. It also allows the schools to have some input into what kinds of workshops will be given to their students. The types of workshops available are plentiful, and almost all of them have a field aspect as well as an oral presentation. Some examples are:

- Plant Power: look at the variety of plants living in the park
- Predator-Prey: explore predator and prey interactions through activities and outdoor inquiries
- Wild About Water: study the water cycle as it flows through the Park

The UEC also works in community centres, with daily after-school ecology programs. They also conduct water programs with their fleet of canoes and kayaks on the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan, and also take on special programs in the summer with various community groups.

### **Community Involvement:**

Besides its education programs, the UEC is also dedicated to improving the environmental health of the community and region around it. It has developed a master plan for the development of Riverside Park, which includes a new facility to increase the teaching potential of the Center and a 100-year biotic management plan that should maximize the biodiversity of the area. This plan is being implemented with both community and government support. The UEC has taken a leadership role in trying to create a strong network of nature/environmental organizations that can work together to better serve the community. They are also developing a master's program at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in environmental education. The UEC has also been involved in the following community projects:

- Formation of Naturenet for Southeastern Wisconsin
- Acts as a fiscal agent for Water Partners
- Part of the Lincoln Creek Advisory
- Works closely with the River Revitalization Foundation

### **Research:**

The UEC is working with Cornell University to implement its Citizen Science program at Riverside Park, which will turn the outdoor classroom into a field station for research. Members of the UWM biology department and UWM field station are already on board with the project, which is fully funded for two years.

**Publications:**

Quarterly newsletter called *River Reflections*

**Notes:**

This is an organization that seems to maximize its teaching ability by concentrating its efforts on only a select number of schools. It does charge for these programs though, the workshops are not free. But it seems to be more community-oriented than a research group, and only takes on advisory roles in areas that are related to its main goals. This group is willing to exchange information.

## Case Study II

### **Urban Ecology Institute** **(UEI)**

#### **Location:**

Chestnut Hill, MA, United States

#### **Contact Information:**

Director, Charles Lord

Mailing Address: Urban Ecology Institute  
225 Higgins Hall  
140 Commonwealth Ave.  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
United States

Phone: 617 552 0928

Fax: 617 552 1198

Email: [info@urbaneco.org](mailto:info@urbaneco.org) or [lordca@bc.edu](mailto:lordca@bc.edu)

Web Address: <http://www.urbaneco.org>

#### **History and Mission:**

The UEI was formed in 1998 by two lawyers, Charlie Lord and Max Kennedy, who envisioned an organization that was committed to research, education, and advocacy for healthy urban ecosystems in the Boston area. To date, they have realized this vision through the many diverse programs the Institute has to offer in all three of its key areas of focus.

Its stated mission is to promote the stewardship of healthy urban ecosystems by improving science and civic education for middle and high school youth and by working with urban communities to protect and restore natural resources. It aims to teach children about the beauty and importance of the environment, while also lobbying governments and companies to protect natural resources.

#### **Education Programs:**

The Institute's main education program is the Urban Ecology Field Studies Program, which is a hands-on program that has both a classroom and field component, allowing kids to experience and learn about the ecosystems in the city firsthand. Students of all abilities work together with classmates, teachers, and UEI field assistants to perform ecosystem studies in a wide variety of settings. The program not only helps the students to better understand their local environment, but also helps to improve their performance in and appreciation for science. But teachers also benefit from the program, as the UEI offers training and professional development to teachers in the realms of environmental

education, curriculum design, and interdisciplinary teaching. Some of the benefits and activities involved with the Urban Ecology Field Studies Program:

- students design experiments and collect data about their local environment, acting as scientists and stewards
- teachers and students work with community groups to analyze data and participate in efforts to address the problems
- students are able to track their data and share it with other schools via the Internet
- students see firsthand that they can make a difference in helping their local environment
- students learn educational frameworks that require them to investigate, analyze, and revise their conclusions based on findings
- teachers and students are trained in monitoring the environmental health of their neighbourhoods
- students attend an Annual Student Research Conference put on by the UEI, where they make presentations and mount displays about the work they have studied over the year

The Field Studies Program also operates on an after-school basis in addition to its school-hours field trips. They hold classes where students can earn science credits required for graduation, work on independent research projects that can be assigned by teachers or designed by UEI staff, or can simply help out the community by working with a community-based organization focused on helping the environment. Whatever the student's timetable, the UEI can find a way to get them involved.

### **Community Involvement and Research:**

The UEI's involvement with its community, outside its education program, is inextricably linked to the research it conducts. Their main involvement is through advocacy for the protection and enhancement of the urban ecosystems in the Greater Boston area. They do this by providing legal and scientific expertise to urban residents, policymakers, and government officials to help develop realistic and effective plans to protect threatened environment. They conduct research that is necessary to give them the information needed to develop these plans and prove their legitimacy. They call this mixing of advocacy and research the Natural Cities Program. One of the main goals of the NCP is to develop community-based models for researching, restoring, and protecting urban natural assets. Some of the research projects conducted/developed by the UEI:

- An ecological resource map and analysis of the Greater Boston Harbour region using GIS technology and existing ecosystem data
- A Rapid Ecological Assessment to identify critical areas for protection and restoration using the resource map and field investigations
- Developed legal and policy tools for the restoration and protection of the Mystic River and Chelsea River sub-watershed

One of the Institute's main goals is within 5 years to have a national model for linking community-based research with advocacy to understand, protect, and restore urban ecosystems.

**Publications:**

A newsletter produced three times a year entitled *Urban Ecology Advocate*

Numerous curriculum materials packages produced for teachers

Policy plans for ecosystem protection of various communities

**Notes:**

This group has expressed a lot of interest in our own work and I have received very positive feedback in our exchanges. If information was needed about something this group has experience in, don't hesitate to ask for some info on the subject. They seem to be a very community-oriented organization, more so than some of the other advisory and policy-developing organizations found here. Their education program is very diverse, suiting itself to the needs of the students.