

## 2016 Year End Summary

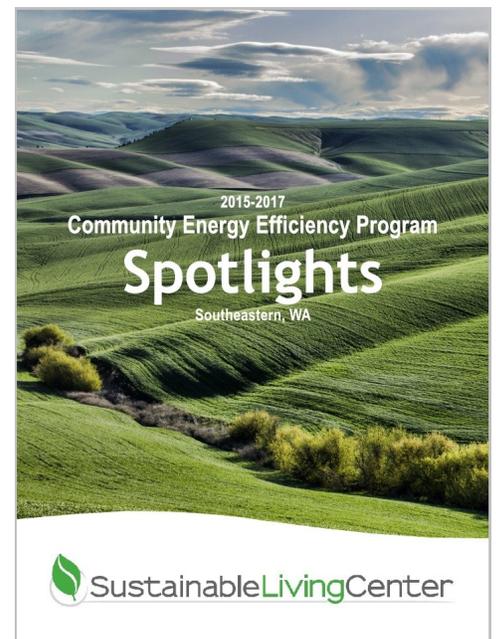


### A Message from the Director

Well, 2016 is almost a wrap, and I feel we have made significant progress towards our goals. I'm thankful for the support of our Board of Directors, my staff, our volunteers, our contractors and community partners, and our grant funders and donors. Without this support, fulfilling our mission to encourage and facilitate sustainable living practices in our community, wouldn't be possible. The following sections provide highlights and accomplishments for each of our primary programs. 2016 also marked the 15th year for our organization which began in 2001 as the Northwest Renewable Energy Festival. We've certainly evolved over the years and made many adjustments based on funding, availability of resources, program focus and community interest. Our focus toward people-centric solutions, however, will not change. We firmly believe that individuals drive changes that will improve not only their quality of life, but also that of our communities and hopefully, beyond. We will continue to work diligently to provide education and services that benefit both individuals AND our community! Read on...

### Community Energy Efficiency Program

The Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) offers low cost Building Performance Institute certified energy audits to homes and small businesses in Walla Walla, Franklin and Columbia counties to provide a blueprint for cost-effective weatherization upgrades for its customers. Customers can also qualify for funding assistance paid directly to local, vetted contractors for recommended work completed. CEEP is funded primarily by the Washington State Legislature, with additional funds supplied by customers, utilities, and the Sustainable Living Center (SLC). CEEP is administered state-wide by Washington State University's Energy Program. SLC's CEEP began in 2009 with ARRA funds, and has benefitted 1,260 area households and businesses with insulation, air sealing, heating equipment, windows and other upgrades through November 2016. From, November 1, 2015 through November 30, 2016, CEEP has generated \$1,224,748 in work completed for our communities. To highlight some of the positive stories of the impact of CEEP, we've created a "Spotlights" booklet that you can request by calling our office at (509)524-5218. Help us further conserve resources and view the booklet online at [www.sustainablelivingcenter.com/CEEP](http://www.sustainablelivingcenter.com/CEEP).





JAN. 2016 Veterans & Seniors  
Home Energy Quick Checks



FEB. 2016 Energy Detectives  
at the WW Public Library



JUN. 2016 Your Green Life at the  
WW Sweet Onion Festival



SEP. 2016 Whitman SCORE  
volunteering at the BRS



DEC. 2016 Julia Fisher at the  
WW Alternative Gift Fair

## Builders ReSupply (BRS)

2016 marked our building materials re-use store's sixth year of providing our community its multiple benefits. Not only can donors give their unneeded or upgraded building materials items new life, but they can also save on disposal fees and receive a tax donation receipt for them. Items diverted from an unnecessary fate in the landfill provide a cost saving option for customers in need of good, usable materials. The store employs a year round part-time employee and provides great volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. Since January 2016, to date, BRS has collected nearly 54 tons of building materials and is able to fully cover its own operational expenses.

## \$mart Business Partners (\$BP)

\$BP is our free advisory program that helps Walla Walla businesses and organizations improve their bottom line by implementing water, energy, waste, and materials saving strategies. 2016 was a challenging period for \$BP due to a lack of resources and staffing. Happily, relief came when the program applied for, and was awarded a Whitman Community Fellow to assist with outreach and coordination of results for our current partners and cultivating new partnerships. Margo Heffron has been an awesome addition to the \$BP team. Special thanks as well, to our program coordinator, Sandra Cannon, for her many contributions.

## Education, Outreach & Events (EOE)

In 2016, EOE experienced gains with multiple elementary and middle school projects focused around energy saving; our Public Workshop Series growing to twelve workshops for the year; numerous community events; and radio, television, and newspaper opportunities. Our Your Green Life sustainability fair, in conjunction with the Sweet Onion Festival, in its third year, had more visitors and exhibitors than in previous years, and our 2nd Annual Alternative Gift Fair was a success as well. The Georgetown University Energy Prize effort added another dimension in 2016, with a lot of outreach trial and error! In October, we welcomed Julia Fisher, an AmeriCorps Volunteer, to the team as Outreach and Education Assistant. EOE has already benefitted from her assistance and 2017 promises even more opportunities to discover and learn about sustainable topics. See our 2017 Public Workshop Series line-up at [www.sustainablelivingcenter.com/workshops](http://www.sustainablelivingcenter.com/workshops) and register for your favorite topics today!

## What's Next?

We're looking forward to 2017 and the challenges that lie ahead. We will work hard to keep up the momentum that we've built this year and anticipate seeing our programs and offerings continue to evolve and grow. We will persist in relying on your generous support in whatever form that may take - and hope that you find fulfillment in helping us reach additional milestones in the years ahead. Thank you again, and please don't hesitate to reach out with ideas, advice, feedback, or just to say 'hello' - we're here for you!

Erendira and the SLC Team