



# WE-CAN – Application Form 2015

## Women Empowering Climate Action Network

*A year-long mentored learning cohort & eco-incubator for women & queer women in Climate Justice & Gaian Resilience*

A Project of the Institute for Earth Regenerative Studies

### Program Information

The Institute for Earth Regenerative Studies is a local graduate institute and adult learning center based in northeast Portland offering stellar programs at the convergence of creativity, eco-restoration, and the living wisdom traditions. One project of the Institute is WE-CAN, Women Empowering Climate Action Network, which is a year-long mentored learning and action cohort to support women and queer women in incubating community-based climate change, climate action, climate resilience, and climate justice projects. Our circle of 8-12 visionary-activists will meet 1-2 times per month, meet once monthly with a program mentor with relevant experience, and mentors and visionary activists will all also co-learn once a month in a larger circle. Visionary-activists, who may come with an arts-based, permaculture/ gardening/ nature-loving, or ecopreneurial background or interests, will cross-pollinate and learn more about climate justice and Gaian resilience while nurturing their visionary projects. Encounters will include a combination of project activation training, collaborative creativity engagements, climate change learning, community organizing, ecopreneurship skill-building, and the development of a plan for launching your project.

### ***We are recruiting women visionary-activists to participate in our maiden cohort!***

The cost for participating is a sliding scale from \$10/month to \$270/month (for nine months), with many partial and full scholarships available. A wide range of proposed projects will be considered, for example projects in food justice community gardening, climate murals, appropriate technology eco-businesses, women's empowerment projects, rural-urban partnerships for permaculture resilience, etc. Use your creative powers to dream Earth's next chapters...

### Application Form for WE-CAN

1. Name
2. Email
3. Address
4. Age
5. Identity
6. Orientation





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### 7. Prioritize and speak to these or other Interest Areas, Motivations, Aspirations

- a. receive mentoring 1:1
- b. able to get a higher paying job after the program
- c. able to have more technical skills
- d. prepared to pilot or launch my project
- e. make connections to new people
- f. feel affirmed and supported while developing my project
- g. feeling aligned with work, service, and values
- h. bring hope
- i. “saving the world”
- j. feeling closer to nature
- k. connect with peers
- l. build own circle of support for the project
- m. actually conduct a pilot
- n. have a finished plan of action
- o. access to workspace
- p. infrastructure support/ incubators
- q. office equipment
- r. having an action buddy from amongst the other project
- s. other...

### 8. Prioritize and speak to these or other Topic Areas –

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. climate change information                                       | p. field trips  |
| b. climate justice  | q. guest speakers   |
| c. Gaian resilience   | r. 1:1 mentorship   |
| d. community based program development                              | s. business planning  |
| e. organizing   | t. inspirational speakers   |
| f. fundraising  | u. program marketing  |
| g. enterprise planning  | v. critical skills  |
| h. strategic communication  | w. how to prioritize  |
| i. websites or WordPress  | x. funding and grant-making   |
| j. social media   | y. operational information: how to break big ideas into do-able steps |
| k. permaculture   | z. how to use social capital and friends to move forward              |
| l. regenerative design  | aa. how to network with others for mutual support                     |
| m. arts-informed approaches   | bb. accomplish a specific goal of the project                         |
| n. Portland environmental and climate justice issues/speakers/tours | cc. other...  |
| o. “toxic tour”   |   |





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9. **Experience Areas** – We are developing a cohort based and collaborative model, what areas or experiences, skills, talents do you bring that you could share?
10. What is the community based climate change **project** idea you would like to incubate? (Feel welcome to also email supplemental documents, ideas, sketches, Doodles to ((email address)) (aim for up to 500 words in main description)
11. Stage: What **stage of development** is your project in? Where do you hope to be by the end of the program?
12. Talk a bit about how your project **relates** to climate change, community action, and/or Gaian resilience.
13. What do you imagine are your biggest **barriers** to success right now for your project?
14. Write a bit about **the top three reasons** you are applying for WE-CAN:
15. Reflect realistically on the **time and energy** you can devote to this program during the months of September 2015 through May 2016.
16. Can you please share a short example when you encountered an obstacle in a project you were doing and you **continued** anyway?
17. The program features **peer collaboration** elements. Can you describe a successful experience you've had with collaborating with peers?
18. The program also features a **relationship with a mentor in your project development**. Speak to things you might like or that have worked for you in the past with a mentor.... Include if you can a description of things you'd appreciate (skills and/or ways of being) in a mentor for your project
19. Please describe a **successful** experience you've had being mentored.
20. **Supporters** – Name three folks who can support you with making your dreams and visions come true (with their contact information). Have at least one (or two) write a letter of enthusiasm and email it to us... or you can attach it here...
21. What would be the most **magnificent vision** of support and nurture you can imagine while incubating your project?
22. Participants would pay a sliding scale of \$10 to \$270/month for participating in the program. There are also sliding scale and scholarships available. Let us know a bit more about your circumstances.
23. **What else** would you like us to know about you and your application?

V3 4-23-15 8a

## Timelines

**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with priority given by June 22, 2015**

Notifications for those applying by June 22, 2015 will be sent by August 1, 2015

The program runs from September 2015 through May 2016

We look forward to learning more about your ideas!

[www.earthregenerative.org/wecan/](http://www.earthregenerative.org/wecan/)

