

The Relocalization Network annual report group profiles

Titanic Lifeboat Academy

Astoria, Oregon, USA

Active since:

2003

Joined the Network:

2004

Website

<http://lifeboat.postcarbon.org>

Group Coordinators:

Caren Black , MA, MEd, Educational Director

Christopher Paddon, MA,
Appropriate Technology & Design Director

Board of Directors:

Dominie Cappadonna, Ph.D.

Marco Mangelsdorf, Ph.D.

George McClendon, LM FCC, MBA

Richard C. Murphy, Ph.D.



Building our sustainable living demonstration site has seen the bulk of our effort. Christopher has completed the barn, which now houses our two goats. Our harvest was abundant this year, forcing a steep learning curve for Caren in food storage. Caren also produced new additions to our poultry flock, through the efforts of two broody hens. We enlarged our greenhouse, designed two more, designed and built a new chicken coop and installed solar panels (both photovoltaic and thermal) and a rainwater catchment system. We added south-facing windows and wood burning stoves to the house. We completed our barn and are in the process of installing a 1.8 KW wind turbine.

For our outreach, we produce The Lifeboat Show the third Monday of each month at 9:30 am on community radio, simulcast online (www.coastradio.org), archived on Global Public Media, and distributed through our website and presentations. Our topics included "Seeds 101," "Your Ecological Footprint," "The Great Turning," and "The Psychology of Denial." Our guests included Dr. Bill Rees of UBC, John Abrams of South Mountain Company on Martha's Vineyard, and other experts from across the country (whom we interview by phone) as well as a local couple who took a three-week Lifeboat learning adventure in their hand-built sailboat.

As part of our community outreach, Christopher has written two grant proposals for a community wind project for Pier 3 of the Port of Astoria, and was recently promoted from "rookie" to Firefighter 1 at our local fire department.

We've continued our research on gardening, animal husbandry, and general sustainability topics, given presentations at SolWest and the Eugene Permaculture Gathering, participated in local food education groups, trained four interns, and offered our first online course. We are also sponsoring a local alternative gifts fair in December. Our wind turbine recently arrived and we have completed all necessary permits for our wind turbine, a process which required educating local county officials on wind energy.