



NEWS RELEASE

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NATHAN JONES WINS SIERRA CLUB JOSEPH BARBOSA AWARD

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Nathan Jones of Corvallis, Ore., has won the Sierra Club's 2009 Joseph Barbosa Award. This award recognizes a Sierra Club member under the age of 30 who has demonstrated a record of service to the environment. The award will be presented on September 26th at the Sierra Club's annual Awards Banquet in San Francisco. The award includes a \$250 prize that will enable Jones to continue his work.

As a student at Oregon State University, Jones helped develop a nationally recognized environmental program that hires students to run sustainability projects on campus (<http://recycle.oregonstate.edu/ssi/>). The Student Sustainability Initiative structure is now sought to be replicated at other Oregon University System schools and likely beyond. Since he began involvement with the SSI, Nathan has been a part of, and mentored others on, campaigns achieving victories in composting, energy efficiency studies, waste reduction, starting a bicycle co-op, creating a permaculture certificate class and garden in the new SSI facility (they have their own house!), and just this past year, a new campus revolving loan fund project. On top of that Nathan has managed to teach a peer learning class on Community Organizing as an undergraduate, and has also helped get students engaged in the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition's work to make Corvallis more sustainable.

Jones also has been a driving force of the region's student climate network called the Cascade Climate Network (<http://cascadecclimate.org/>). CCN, now two years old, has had tremendous growth, in part due to its strong leadership, which Jones has worked hard to cultivate. Oregon State University is continually one of the strongest contributors to CCN, taking on leadership positions within the network and sending the most students to events. Jones currently serves as CCN's Training Coordinator. Last year, he was the Network Facilitator. He was the predominant force organizing conference calls and keeping the group together during its first nascent year.

Last summer, Jones and a group of two other students began a project that is now known as the NICE (Northwest Institute for Community Energy) (<http://thenice.org/>). Their goal was to run a public education campaign in a SE Portland neighborhood to prove to the neighborhood that they could generate their own thermal energy that could heat their homes and start a community energy utility.

Jones is one of the first students from the Northwest to become involved with the Sierra Student Coalition, the student arm of the Sierra Club. Jones has served on all levels of leadership in the SSC, including the Trainings Committee, Conservation Committee and Executive Committee. He has served as a leader at several of the summer leadership training program the SSC coordinates. His leadership led the SSC to fund a staff position in the Northwest to help support youth climate activism.

“I have never worked with a more talented student than Nathan Jones,” said Jenny Bedell-Stiles, who now serves as the SSC's Regional Student Organizer in the Northwest. “Within the SSC ranks, he is a respected veteran, seen by many as compassionate, skilled, loyal, dependable and visionary.”