



# The Como-tion

## Staffing Changes at SECIA- Environmental Coordinator position winds down after 12 years

12 years ago, Justin Eibenholz was hired as the City's only neighborhood based Environmental Coordinator. SECIA's Environment Committee's visionary members chose to take on ambitious projects and made the critical but risky decision to hire staff utilizing some of their NRP funds. This decision by the committee not only helped SECIA implement Como's NRP plan, but also helped SECIA realize one of the fundamental requirements of a City recognized neighborhood organization – to encourage community residents to become more involved in their neighborhood. Over the years, the Environment Committee's efforts have engaged hundreds of volunteers in single projects or on-going commitments and empowered in a variety of Como residents – young and old – renter and homeowner.

The newly hired staff along with the passion and vision that engaged residents bring helped SECIA leverage hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional funding for community directed projects over the past decade. It helped develop and create programming that not only served the members of this community, but in some cases served other southeast residents and improved the health and well-being of the region.

### Highlights:

- **Waste Reduction:** MIMO (Move-in/Move-out) -Over the four MIMOs cycles we diverted almost 26,000lbs of household furnishings and had 2,872 people attend the events
- **Air Quality:** Air Permit Inventory Mapping Project. Good neighbor agreements. Founding member of Clean Energy Now! Coalition successfully advocating the conversion of the Xcel metro plants from coal to natural gas.
- **Water Quality:** Build your own rain barrel workshops. Rain garden installations. Bridal Veil Creek Reconstruction & Pollution Remediation Project.
- **Energy Reduction:** Cloths Line giveaway. Whole house energy audits.
- **Renewable Energy:** Solar Heated Water Pilot Project resulting in 17 installations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Xcel Windsource promotion. Solar motion light giveaways.
- **Environmental Expertise:** Environmental Coordinator on staff. Review of proposed projects and EIS documentation. Workshops and conferences.

Unfortunately, changes in City funding along with a lack of funding from other sources and an emphasis on funding only very small cost projects has taken their toll on SECIA's ability to continue with the current level of programming. In discussion with SECIA's Executive Committee, the Environment Committee decided to close the position of the Environmental Coordinator – a position filled since its inception by Justin Eibenholz. Justin's last day will be Friday May 3rd, 2013.

SECIA's Environment Committee will continue to work on its priorities with the resources remaining and they hope that further funding or other grant opportunities will become available in the future to enable SECIA to bring Justin back to the organization he has helped shape. However, until or unless those funds can be found, SECIA will be operating under greatly reduced capacity.

Please support us in thanking Justin for his vision, hard work and perseverance on some truly amazing projects that helped build Como's positive reputation and put us in the local and even national spotlight for our resident's environmental leadership.

### Como Resources:

- \$5000 deferred payment loans for home buyers. Check [www.mncee.org](http://www.mncee.org)

- Stay informed with **Como Tidbits**. Sign up by just taking a picture:



- Want to be in the know? Como-Partners at Yahoo
- The Como Green Village blog has Justin's farewell letter

### In this issue:

- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Farewell to Justin | <b>1</b> |
| Resources          | <b>1</b> |
| Events             | <b>2</b> |
| FairShare FarmOn!  | <b>2</b> |



# Events (<http://tinyurl.com/secomo-calendar>)

## E.T. at Van Cleve

June 10, 15 min. after sunset (~9:15 p.m.)  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Community Building Committee Meeting

June 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Ward 2 Office Hours

June 11, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

## Friends of SE Library Meeting

June 13, 5:30 p.m.  
SE Library, 1222 4th St SE

## Stone Arch Festival

June 14-16, Times vary.  
Historic Main Street, Father Hennepin Park and  
music/food/beer at Water Power Park SE

## Livability Committee Meeting

June 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Celebrate Northeast Parade

June 18, 6:30 p.m.  
Central Ave in NorthEast

## Environment Committee Meeting

June 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Fairshare Farm On!

June 29, 11:00-2:00 p.m.  
22nd Ave SE & Fairmount Ave

## SECIA Board Meeting

July 2, 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Blueprint Committee Meeting

July 7, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Avenue SE

## Southeast Como Improvement Association

1170 15th Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
Tel: 612-676-1731  
E-mail: [secomo@secomo.org](mailto:secomo@secomo.org)



[Secomo.org](http://Secomo.org)

Nonprofit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Permit 30308  
Twin Cities MN

Neighborhood based advocacy benefiting Southeast Como and the entire Twin Cities

## FairShare Farm community gardeners are hosting monthly open garden events called 'Farm On!'

Farm On! happens the last Saturday of every month from 11am to 2pm at FairShare Farm on 22nd Ave SE & Fairmount Ave. Activities are free and for all-ages. Each Farm On! will feature garden tips, crafts/art/music, TASTING, and kid friendly activities. Activities are free and for all-ages. Everyone is welcome! Keep your eyes open for previews and specifics for each upcoming Farm On! event. The next Farm

On! is June 29th with a theme of Early Harvest and thus far looks to include some DIY garden label activities and bike maintenance.

