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## **Portland Woman Singled Out for Environmental Leadership *Honoree Receives Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship***

New York, NY, November 19, 2009-A Portland, Oregon woman is the recipient of a national fellowship designed to advance the work of individuals with outstanding leadership potential to help shape a brighter environmental future.

Mickey Lee is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellow. The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship offers specialized training in conservation planning and execution, the chance to work and share best practices with gifted conservation professionals, and assistance with project outreach and evaluation. Each Fellow receives \$10,000 towards a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contributing to greater environmental health.

For her fellowship, Lee plans to work with local organizations in Portland and Oakland California like Solar Richmond, to create a pilot project for energy efficiency training and job placement in Portland that can be replicated nationally. Her hope is to partner on the “Community Workforce Agreement on Standards and Community Benefits with Clean Energy Works Portland (CEWP) and its partners to establish the solar side of their training and placement program. Through this work, she hopes to integrate and educate business leaders about the value of including disenfranchised communities in these opportunities. Local businesses have been slower to reach out to such communities than the non-profit and government sector and Lee sees the community benefit to such an approach. To do this, Lee will collaborate with local groups that include the Urban League of Portland, the local AFL-CIO, and Verde (a non-profit dedicated to finding jobs for people living in disadvantaged communities) all of which are partners on this project. Mickey is looking to find companies that will provide matching funding to the *TogetherGreen* grant to create a larger impact.

Lee is currently the strategic director for Carbon Concierge in Portland, which was initially created through Bainbridge Graduate Institute’s sustainable MBA program. She is responsible for the establishment of tools, resources and consulting that help guide business leaders to engage in the process of environmental and social sustainability in their organizations.

“Mickey is the kind of person who can make a real difference in the health of our environment and the quality of our future,” said Audubon President John Flicker. “Each of our *TogetherGreen* Fellows demonstrates exceptional environmental understanding and commitment, combined with tremendous potential to inspire and lead others. Together, they represent the talented and diverse leadership the environmental community will need to tackle the huge challenges and opportunities confronting us now and in the years to come.”

“Because conservation is a key component in solving our current climate challenges, we must be creative about how we engage people and organizations. Providing opportunities for businesses to support the creation of Sustainable Careers and linking them with organizations that are helping to create a sustainable labor force is a win/win scenario. Working with *TogetherGreen* will enable this project to have a greater impact with a larger audience as well as connect our team with other leaders in this arena,” said Lee.

Lee has been managing Carbon Concierge since 2007 and has been affiliated with Bainbridge Graduate Institute since 2006. Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon’s far-reaching national network; half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations.

Lee received a Bachelor’s degree in Humanities from Washington State University and an MBA in Sustainable Development from Bainbridge Graduate Institute.

A distinguished advisory committee - composed of conservation professionals and experts in environmental education, communications, outreach, and conservation planning - selected the fellowship beneficiaries from a competitive pool of scores of highly qualified individuals. Qualified applicants must have at least six years of experience in conservation, environmental education, policy, or environmental issues, as demonstrated through current and past work experience, academic studies related to conservation, and/or volunteer work. Candidates must have a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow, and demonstrate a proven ability in reaching previously unengaged audiences.

"We must engage the best and brightest leaders representing the broadest and most diverse communities in this country to solve our ever more complex conservation challenges," said Diane Wood, President, National Environmental Education Foundation. "*TogetherGreen* is a creative program that uncovers such leaders, nurtures their talents, supports their dedication to conservation and holds them up to inspire others to follow."

A complete list of the 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellows can be found at [www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows](http://www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows) .

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#### **About *TogetherGreen***

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to build the promise of a greener, healthier future through innovation, leadership and volunteerism. To date, 80 environmental leaders-half from within Audubon and half from outside organizations-have received *TogetherGreen* Fellowships to protect land, water, and energy resources nationwide. For more information, visit [www.togethergreen.org](http://www.togethergreen.org).

#### **About Audubon**

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

#### **About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$464 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit [www.toyota.com/community](http://www.toyota.com/community).