

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2013 Nominee Profile

Chris and Judith Plant, Gabriola Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Promoting and demonstrating sustainability through book publishing
- Nominator(s):** Heather Wardle
- Letters of Support:** N/A

Project Description:

Judith and Chris Plant are the visionaries and leaders of New Society Publishers, a Gabriola-based book publisher that is a global leader in books on sustainability with over 150 titles. New Society Publishers has been located on Gabriola Island since 1996 publishing best-sellers such as "Our Ecological Footprint." New Society Publishers' mission is to publish books that contribute to building an ecologically sustainable and just society, and to do so with the least possible impact on the environment, in a manner that models this vision.

Under Judith and Chris' leadership, New Society Publishers was the first carbon-neutral publishing house in North America. In 2001, they committed to publishing all their books on 100% post-consumer recycled paper, leading the book publishing community in Canada. Recently, New Society has introduced a unique component to its thriving ebook program -- New Society's Guide To Environmentally Responsible Digital Reading.

Chris and Judith have been dedicated to benefiting Gabriola Island through New Society Publishers. They have a policy of hiring locally, and have employed local people in editing, design, marketing, and information technology. When Douglas & McIntyre bought the company in 2008, Judith and Chris ensured that it remained based on Gabriola and that their team stayed intact. Chris and Judith re-acquired New Society Publishers in 2013 and continue to actively support the community through monthly donations to not-for-profits, regular donations to fundraisers and by offering a unique employee benefit which allows employees two hours paid community volunteer work per week on a rotational basis. In addition to demonstrating sustainability through publishing, Chris and Judith have been active participants in the bioregional movement for over 25 years and in their work for a post-carbon future, they maintain ties with various networks of transition-town dwellers, permaculturalists, publishers and others.