



2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The interdependence between business and local government is increasingly apparent as the region faces challenges of resource constraints, limited tax base, and increasing costs across the board. Sustainable Pittsburgh raises sustainability as the bridge for business and municipal collaboration.

Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge

A yearlong competition for businesses to reduce energy usage, the [Green Workplace Challenge](#) yielded big results among the 50+ participants:

- Saved 67,159,765 kWh of energy, enough to power 5,842 average U.S. homes for a year.
- Saved nearly 91 million gallons of water, enough to fill Heinz Field 13 feet!
- Saved over 18,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent: roughly 452 airline flights of 500 miles or 3.1 days worth of all flights leaving Pittsburgh International Airport on a given day.

We estimate the dollar savings on just the energy alone to be \$4.2 million. To view the winners and learn more about the Challenge, please visit greenchallenge.C4SPgh.org.

Business and Community Sustainability Coordinators

The Business Sustainability Coordinators cohort has grown from 21 industry professionals to over 70. SP facilitates this group as well as a municipal counterpart: the Community Sustainability Coordinators (professionals in local government and community development responsible for implementing sustainability programs). Both affinity groups feature resource sharing and continued professional development in the burgeoning sustainability profession. For 2013 they are coming together in the new Sustainable Business and Municipal Roundtable to tackle financing green infrastructure.

SWPA Sustainable Business Compact

We invite businesses around the region to assess their sustainability and be acknowledged for their leadership via the [SWPA Sustainable Business Compact](#). The Compact provides a credible and rigorous pathway for businesses to advance and publicly demonstrate their corporate sustainability achievements. Vetted by sustainability professionals representing small, mid, and large-size companies, the Compact is a strategic next step for the region, and the first of its kind to take a regional approach to sustainability needs and opportunities.

SWPA Sustainable Community Essentials Certification Program

Building from success of the online Sustainable Community Essentials Rapid Assessment (completed by over 130 municipalities), we engaged a committee of local government practitioners to transform

the Assessment into a formal certification program (and we are part of a coalition looking to take it statewide). The certification will be launched at the [12th annual SWPA Smart Growth Conference on December 13](#). Learn more about this conference, and how we are bringing together the business and municipal sectors to address our region's time-critical issues of transportation, green infrastructure and innovative finance for urban redevelopment.

Accelerating sustainability - additional achievements

Continuing to facilitate community exploration of Bus Rapid Transit and development of [GetTherePgh.org](#)

Continued advocacy for transportation funding.

Strategy for water stewardship led to successful creation of both the new [Water Economy Network](#) and Headwaters Resource Committee.

Facilitating a committee of developers to create policy recommendations for innovative finance for urban redevelopment.

Sustainable Development Academy partnership with the Local Government Academy delivered training programs on air quality, blight & abandonment, waste management and recycling, and managing Marcellus.

Formally making the case and precedent to regional leadership for developing a regional energy strategy/plan.

Champions for Sustainability (C4S) business network led a [workshop series on air quality](#) in partnership with [The Breathe Project](#).

[Sustainable Business Designation program](#) for small companies expanded to Butler County. For 2013 we will launch the next version for mid-size interests.