



2017 Accomplishments

RAISING THE BAR: Six formal performance programs that establish essential criteria and provide recognition for sustainability achievement

[Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurants](#)

This performance program recognizes restaurants (109 and growing) for having implemented practices that are simultaneously good for the environment, economy, and society. In order to earn sustainable designation, a restaurant's business practices are assessed across six areas of sustainability: energy, water, waste, people, food sourcing, and nutrition. The program brings the promise of educating consumers, elevating performance of restaurants, contributing to economic and social development while propelling Pittsburgh to not only be an acclaimed foodie leader but the sustainable foodie city. Elements include education, technical assistance, promotions, and this year 36 restaurants have received funding support for sustainability projects (gardens, retrofits, composting, etc.) through a competitive process in collaboration with the 11 business districts with which the program is partnered. For 2018, a marketing campaign will be deployed to increase public awareness and patronage of these designated restaurants. 2018 will also bring increased restaurant support such as workshops, farm tours, and producer/buyer matchmaking events.

[Sustainable Small Business Designation](#)

This program recognizes small businesses who implement actions that improve the environment, the social fabric of their communities, and their bottom line. To date, 276 small business owners have achieved the designation leading them to take actions that yield savings and in turn earn public recognition. Creative initiatives to entice the public to patronize these main street located businesses include promotions in tandem with the national Shop Small Business Saturday campaign, a special sweepstakes, and more.

[Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification](#)

Continuing the partnership with the Pennsylvania Municipal League, 80 municipalities have earned this formal certification representing over 3.0 million residents. Regular convening of municipal leaders involved in the program provides exchange of best practices, connects them to resources, and provides recognition for local government innovations in advancing sustainable communities.

[Green Workplace Challenge \(GWC\)](#)

This annual competition helps businesses and organizations reduce energy use, water consumption, waste and transportation emissions, while also pursuing a more socially equitable workplace and region. This year's fourth Challenge enjoyed participation by 92 employers who completed 2,009 measurable, verified actions. They saved 33 million gallons of water, 16,889,806 kWh of energy valued at \$1.3 million, 11,662 tons of CO₂ were prevented, 1.22 tons PM 2.5 mitigated and methane emissions were reduced by

2,537 lbs. Throughout the year, numerous workshops were conducted to provide assistance to participants as well as regular issuance of a resource-rich eNewsletter. The GWC Finale and Awards Event featured keynote by Bob Nutting of the Pirates and demonstrated the impacts of the participants who were engaged in workshops through the year. Recruiting for the 2018 Challenge is underway, renamed the Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge (enjoy the [promotional video](#)).

[SWPA Sustainable Business Compact](#)

The Compact is a regional reporting framework for large and medium size businesses to demonstrate their environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, impacts for their business and the region, and be distinguished. A new On Ramp starter level has been added to which all CEOs for Sustainability participants have committed, thus creating the start of a regional sustainable business baseline. Updating of the Compact is underway for relaunch in 2018, when it will support initiatives to educate and engage the region's business community on the benefits of sustainable business performance and disclosure.

[I Am Sustainable Pittsburgh pledge](#)

788 people of taken the pledge denoting actions they will take as sustainability agents of change. 2018 will feature roll out of a campaign to engage the public in demonstrating their sustainability change agency in the movement to accelerate prosperity for southwestern PA.

MAKING THE BUSINESS CASE & ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSION:

Convene leaders to accelerate sustainable solutions and policies

[Sustainable Community Development Network \(SCDN\)](#)

Support to local government in the uptake of sustainability is provided in several ways within this network including the special initiatives below:

- Sustainable Development Academy (SDA) education programs in partnership with the Local Government Academy included webinars on Stormwater Mitigation Tools, Urban Agriculture, Farmers Markets, Complete Streets, Crowd Sourcing, Open Streets, Green/Open Space Protection, Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant program, the Sustainable Small Business Designation, and a briefing on Environmental Rights Amendment of the State Constitution.
- SCDN Networking forums and information sessions including half day events on blight mitigation and sustainable stormwater control
- SCDN eNewsletter
- EcoDistrict collaborations
- Initiated a partnership between Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and Uptown whereby all 400 freshmen in the business school examined the Uptown EcoInnovation District and presented business plans for innovations.
- Hosted an Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio River Basin Alliance briefing on the effects of climate change on the western portion of the Ohio River Basin in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy.
- [Corporate Sustainability Consultation to Municipalities Program](#) in collaboration with Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management and Local Government Academy matches corporate volunteers with municipalities to provide sustainability expertise on sustainability projects. 8 municipalities served in partnership with Alcoa and Covestro.

[Champions for Sustainability \(C4S\)](#)

Sustainable business leaders come together regularly to explore trends and best practices while engaging in a variety of C4S programs including:

- Hosted 9th Annual Sustainability Conference, [Engineering a Sustainable Economy](#) in collaboration with The American Society of Civil Engineers (Pittsburgh Section), The Environmental and Water Resources

Institute (Pittsburgh Chapter), the City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office, American Public Works Association (Western PA Chapter). The event introduced the region to the Envision Rating System for Sustainable Infrastructure.

- [CEOs for Sustainability](#)

24 and rising CEOs of this executive council of corporate leaders are working to increase the number of businesses that practice, measure, and report their sustainability achievements while contributing to the region's sustainable development.

- All the CEOs' companies have achieved the Sustainable Business Compact On Ramp, a performance program to advance and recognize leading businesses.
- Conducted a baseline assessment of sustainability performance of the region's largest publicly traded companies as tracked by Bloomberg metrics and disseminated this report, "Sustainability Reporting Trends in SWPA," to this group of large corporations.
- Launched resources including benefits of business sustainability, a tool kit, best practices, and overview of trends.
- Co-hosted, with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, [an executive forum](#) (Bottom-Line Benefits of Corporate Sustainability) featuring local business [sustainability case studies](#) of PITT OHIO and Eat'n Park Hospitality Group.
- Launched the CEOs for Sustainability Speaker Series with a keynote by Mike Krzus on "How C-Suites Are Responding to Increasing Stakeholder Demand."
- The CEOs 2018 work program focuses on numerous ambitious goals around energy, supply chain, air and water quality, and more.

- [Business Sustainability Pros](#)

Growing with an active core of 35 and total 80+ members, this cohort meets regularly on professional development opportunities including tours, lectures, and group projects such as recycling and waste management. The Pros have created a Materials and Waste Management Resource Guide, to be distributed in 2018.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES: Advancing sustainability from a regional perspective

[Renewable Energy for the Power of 32](#)

- Beginning with a convening of over 40 energy professionals, Sustainable Pittsburgh is developing a program to aggregate purchasing power of large energy consumers to invest in and thereby hasten scaling up of large-scale renewable energy production in the region. Such projects are informed by regional trends reporting as covered in the [Southwestern Pennsylvania Sustainability Goals & Indicators Report](#) published by Sustainable Pittsburgh at the end of 2016.

[Sustainability Assessments of Developments of Regional Importance](#)

Continued engagement with numerous new developments around the region to invite their further adoption of sustainability attributes. Among ambitions, [invited](#) Royal Dutch Shell to collaborate in an independent sustainability assessment of the cracker complex.

[Advocacy](#)

- Sustainable Pittsburgh collaborated on many specific advocacy initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels both as a sign-on and in a leadership role.
- This year brought a high level of media attention including coverage of Sustainable Pittsburgh in international news ([The Guardian](#), [ClimateWire](#), [CNN](#)) in response to the President's statement of intent to remove the U.S. from the Paris Accord.

- Local media attention also covered Sustainable Pittsburgh's initiatives for the region such as: [Power of 32, op-ed on air quality](#), and sampling of more noted throughout this report.
- Sustainable Pittsburgh Insider e-news issued each week included new features of interviews with regional sustainability leaders and also commentary by Sustainable Pittsburgh on current events. The below chronicles both:

"Sustainability Insider" interviews

[Mario Leone](#), Borough Manager, Monaca Borough
[Allison Robinson](#), Director, UPMC Environmental Initiatives
[Zaheen Hussain](#), Millvale Sustainability Coordinator
[Mary Jo Morandini](#), General Manager, Beaver County Transit Authority
[Jennifer Stockdale](#), Marketing Specialist, IKEA
[Ron Gdovic](#), CEO, Windstax
[Margie Marks](#), Curator of Conservation Education, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
[Quincy Kofi Swatson](#), Executive Director, The Door Campaign
[Sonja Finn](#), Owner & Chef, Dinette; Consulting Chef, The Carnegie Café at Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
[Joe Reale](#), Co-Owner/Operations Manager, Arancini House
[Arletta Scott Williams](#), Executive Director, ALCOSAN
[Duygu Altintas](#), Manager, Verona Gun Safe
[Phyllis Barber](#), Sustainability Manager, Highmark Inc.
[Robert Sroufe](#), Professor of Sustainability, Operations and Supply Chain Management, Duquesne University
[Mary Ellen Ramage](#), Borough Manager, Borough of Etna
[Colin Huwyler](#), CEO, Optimus Technologies
[Jerry Andree](#), Township Manager/Secretary, Cranberry Township
[Susan Hockenberry](#), Executive Director, Quaker Valley Council of Governments
[Bill O'Rourke](#), Retired Alcoa Vice President, Environment Health & Safety and Sustainability
[Alexis Vargas](#), Special Initiatives Manager, City of Pittsburgh, Office of Mayor William Peduto
[Ron Oliver](#), District Manager, Sushi Fuku
[Rachel Filippini](#), Executive Director, Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)
[Bill O'Driscoll](#), Arts and Entertainment Editor, and environmental journalist, Pittsburgh City Paper
[Mark Lewis](#), President and CEO, POISE Foundation
[Justine Russo](#), Manager, Market Research and Business Intelligence at PITT OHIO
[Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis](#), Executive Director, Women for a Healthy Environment
[Tim Stevens](#), Chairman and CEO, Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
[Mary Whitney](#), Director, University Sustainability, Chatham University
[Heather Arnet](#), Chief Executive Officer, Women and Girls Foundation
[Jeff Broadhurst](#), President and CEO, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group

Sustainable Pittsburgh "Straight Talk"

[Rationalizing a Severance Tax](#)
[Immigrants Benefit Pittsburgh](#)
[Money for Water](#)
[Earth to Oval Office](#)

[Mon Fayette Expressway](#)
[On Board with the Electric Bus](#)
[No Turning Back on Sustainability](#)
[Bring Back Growth... of the Sustainable Kind](#)
[Affordable Housing is a Keystone to Sustainable Communities](#)
[For the 1st Time, Two Dozen Nonprofit CEOs Take a Stand Together for the Environment](#)
[Jared Diamond and Business Driving Sustainability](#)
[Our Sustainability Minded President](#)
[Pa.'s Act 129 has been an energy efficiency success story](#)
[We are What We Measure](#)
[Welcome Front Line of Defense – PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro](#)
[Climate Default Despite Growing Chorus](#)
[Thank you, Mr. President](#)
[Low Birth Weight Babies & Infant Mortality — A Quintessential Sustainability Issue](#)
[Character Tops Charisma: CEOs for Sustainability](#)
[Health Insurance – Can't Live Without It](#)
[All Sustainability is Local](#)
[The Week Climate Tipped](#)
[Schools – Imperative to Intergovernmental Cooperation for Sustainable Communities](#)
[An Environmentally Crippling PA Revenue Package & Rationalizing the Severance Tax](#)
[Your Wisdom Requested: Beyond Bromides — Truths and Pathways for a Sustainable Pittsburgh Region](#)
[Sustainability in the Global Crosshairs](#)
[Where were you during the eclipse?](#)
[Tortured Water and Beltway Consequences](#)
[Eye-popping Numbers – Clean Jobs](#)
[Forging a Vision for a Clean, Healthy, and Renewable Future](#)
[PA Environmental and Clean Energy Groups Denounce Repeal of Clean Power Plan](#)
[Climate Reality Hits Pittsburgh Region](#)
[Sustainability Issues at Odds](#)
[New Name to Honor Your Sustainability Creds](#)