



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New Year. New Challenge. New Ways to Compete. Save. Win.
EMPLOYERS: Go further in 2018 and sign up for the Sustainable Pittsburgh
Challenge!**

(Pittsburgh, PA – December 11, 2017) The local nonprofit Sustainable Pittsburgh is inviting area organizations to resolve to go further in advancing sustainable business practices by signing up for the 2018 Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge. Previously named the Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge, this free and friendly competition enables organizations to track sustainability performance and receive positive recognition for their achievements. The SP Challenge begins January 1, 2018 and runs through January 31, 2019. **Organizations that sign up to compete by December 31, 2017 earn 30 bonus points.** The official deadline to sign up is January 31, 2019. Information is available at SPChallenge.org.

“Whether an organization is new to sustainability or more advanced in its practices, the competition offers a range of resources and options,” says Autumn Secrest, Sustainable Business Program Manager at Sustainable Pittsburgh. “The Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge is a roadmap for sustainability that meets organizations where they are.”

The SP Challenge is open to businesses, nonprofits, universities, K-12 schools, and local governments operating in southwestern Pennsylvania. Among several benefits, participation helps organizations better manage utility expenses; create positive, diverse and inclusive work environments; connect with people and resources; and capitalize on processes to save money by reducing waste, energy and water use.

Sustainable Pittsburgh team members are available to work with participating organizations to create their own custom strategies, with more than 250 actions from which to choose. Participants earn points for every action submitted; action categories include Air Quality, Materials Management, Social Equity, Engagement, Energy, Water, and Transportation.

Following is a list of the nearly 50 organizations that have already committed to participate:

BUSINESSES

Large (500 + employees)

FedEx Ground
PITT OHIO
SAP Ariba

Medium (76 - 499 employees)

IKEA Pittsburgh
Oxford Development Company

Small (11 - 75 employees)

AE Works
Bruster's Real Ice Cream - Hopewell
CannonDesign
Christine Davis Consultants
East End Brewing Company
Environmental Planning & Design, LLC
mossArchitects
Pashek + MTR
Sci-Tek Consultants, Inc.

Micro (10 or fewer employees)

Emilie Cohen Studios
evolveEA
FisherARCHitecture
Optimus Technologies
Tupelo Honey Teas

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Large (500 + employees)

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Medium (76 - 499 employees)

Allegheny County Airport Authority
Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN)
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Small (11 - 75 employees)

Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI)
Green Building Alliance
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Micro (10 or fewer employees)

Cribs for Kids
Millvale Community Library
New Sun Rising
Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project
Student Conservation Association

MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Large (Population 25,000 +)

Allegheny County
Moon Township
Pittsburgh (City of)

Medium (Population 10,000 - 24,999)

Upper St. Clair Township

Small (Population 4,000 - 9,999)

Bellevue Borough
Forest Hills Borough
Monaca Borough

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Chatham University
Robert Morris University
University of Pittsburgh

K-12 SCHOOLS

Central Catholic High School
West Allegheny School District

SELF-PERFORMERS

These organizations are not competing against peer organizations, but are still working toward a more sustainable workplace. Self-Performers may still submit actions, receive verification, earn achievement ribbons and attend workshops.

Self-Performers (Non-competing Participants)

Mullin & Lonergan Associates
Print and Copy Center
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sustainable Pittsburgh

JoAnn Rizzo, ECO Chair at AE Works, the Small Business Division Winner in last year's competition, noted, "Participating in [last year's competition] helped us grow our positive social and environmental performance and it's great to be a part of the larger effort to make that impact in Pittsburgh. For any company or organization that is thinking about participating I highly recommend it."

Every action makes a difference. More than 250 organizations, representing tens of thousands of employees, took nearly 8,000 sustainable actions over the course of four competitions, resulting in cost savings of \$10 million in energy alone. The amount of energy saved is enough to power more than 10 percent of single family homes in the City of Pittsburgh for a year (11,829 average U.S. homes). Participants saved enough water to fill Heinz Field to a depth of 230 feet (over 100 million gallons saved).

For an up to date list of participating organizations, visit SPChallenge.org. Anyone with questions about the competition should email challenge@sustainablepittsburgh.org. Winners will be announced in Spring 2019. Follow SP Challenge on social media: Twitter (www.twitter.com/competesavewin), Facebook (www.facebook.com/competesavewin) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/competesavewin).

Champions for Sustainability (C4S), a network for sustainable business solutions, brings together companies large and small to put sustainability into practice. A program of Sustainable Pittsburgh, C4S provides value via education, technical assistance and consulting on operational needs, and serves as a catalyst for new enterprise and innovation for cementing the business case for sustainability. The SP Challenge is presented as part of the C4S network. C4SPgh.org

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, **Sustainable Pittsburgh (SP)** affects decision-making for the Pittsburgh region to integrate economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality as the enduring accountability, bringing sustainable solutions for communities and businesses. SustainablePittsburgh.org

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