

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2022



Sustainable PGH

This document is Sustainable Pittsburgh's first formal annual report, documenting our work and accomplishments in the calendar year 2022. We couldn't be more excited to provide this detailed look at our progress and goals, and how we are creating impact in the region and across the state. 2022 was a notable year for our organization, as it was for many organizations emerging after the years of pandemic distancing. We returned to our office, with a hybrid work model for staff, and many of the activities you will read about in this report were happening for the first time in person since early 2020.

In addition to meeting the profound needs created by the interesting times in which we have been living, our work has been to build a stronger foundation for Sustainable Pittsburgh. I couldn't be prouder of the ways in which 2022 represented a set of key accomplishments toward strengthening our capabilities and internal capacity. At the same time, we were able to engage in some important, timely, and robust external ways. We remain committed to meeting this moment in our history with dedication and eagerness to address the challenges before us and chart a sustainable future for our region. Both the crisis presented by climate change and the ongoing inequities in the region have provided an important backdrop and a reason to prioritize in the ways that we have.

The preparation we had taken to build a more resilient organizational structure and improve our internal tools have enabled us to continue working on our internal goals while pivoting to new and targeted services to advance sustainability externally. From our work on convening conversations about regional decarbonization to the reopening of our updated sustainability recognition programs and frameworks—there is more to report on than could possibly fit in the pages that follow.

What is represented here are highlights of our work, organized according to overarching goals.

It would be impossible to create the outcomes we have seen without the talented, passionate staff doing incredible work, the valuable feedback and contributions of our engaged board, the many partners with whom we work in common purpose, and the steadfast support of the philanthropic community and our other contributors.

Thank you for joining us in our work to forge a better future, for all.



JOYLETTE PORTLOCK, PH.D.
Executive Director



Sustainability is a fundamental value, to be incorporated from the ground up, no matter the type of organization.



MISSION

To empower decision-making that builds a fundamentally equitable, resilient, healthy, and prosperous region.



VISION

A thriving region where stakeholders are connected, sustainability knowledge is shared and applied, and all people can succeed.

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URGENT CHALLENGES. SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.

Reducing carbon emissions for a more sustainable, resilient region

Decarbonization, or the reduction of carbon emissions from human systems and activities, has quickly elevated as a priority for southwestern Pennsylvania. Over several months, Sustainable Pittsburgh, along with the CEOs for Sustainability executive network, organized meetings with more than 200 regional stakeholders, including hosting an official side event for the Global Clean Energy Action Forum. The gatherings explored the imperative for building a comprehensive, equitable, multi-sector decarbonization strategy— a critical, urgent approach for climate action.



Three key priorities emerged: change at scale, meaningful community engagement, and measurement and accountability, which bring us to seven immediate next steps:

- Secure federal investment, centering equity
- Rapidly deploy existing technologies, ensuring accountability
- Develop new technologies and strategies
- Inform creation of new enabling policies
- Equitable workforce development
- Use existing measurements to maximum advantage
- Develop new, more comprehensive systems to track progress through policy and alliances.

These steps can help the region prioritize action plans for both individual organizations and for coalitions. Sustainable Pittsburgh is developing specific guidance around these next steps and working with partners to further refine the strategy for achieving at-scale change. During the November 2022 CEOs for Sustainability C-Suite Summit, CEO leaders shared their corporate commitments to decarbonization, several of which include achieving net zero emissions by 2025, using 100% renewable energy in facilities by 2023, and setting science-based targets. To truly achieve decarbonization, we must embark on a massive scale-up of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electrification, among other strategies.



Right: Signage from the September 2022 Global Clean Energy Action Forum, held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh

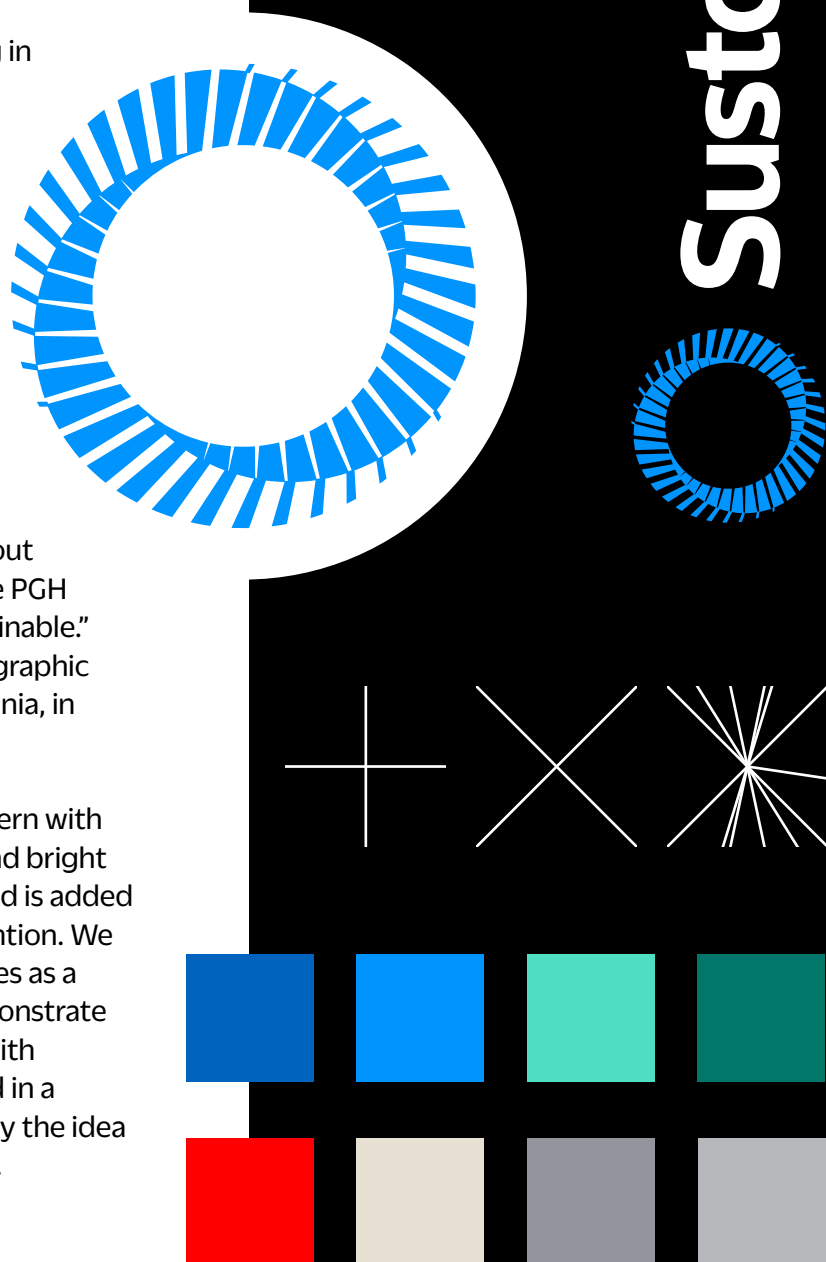
BEHIND THE SCENES: STRENGTHENING OUR ABILITIES

Organizational Rebrand

One of many highlights of 2022 was the unveiling of Sustainable Pittsburgh's new logo and branding, complete with updated messaging. The rebrand provided a much needed refresh; the previous logo had been used since Sustainable Pittsburgh's inception twenty four years ago. Additionally, the updated messaging more clearly articulates who Sustainable Pittsburgh is and what we do.

The icon conveys many pieces aligning in a perpetual, renewing, circular motion, as a reflection of our work to bring interests together and drive progress forward to a sustainable tomorrow. Simultaneously, our logo serves as a conceptual reminder of the three lenses through which to view sustainability - equity, environment, and economy - as three sides of the same shape, with each set of considerations always present. The PGH abbreviation is more geographically inclusive than spelling out Pittsburgh, and if one looks closely, the PGH is slightly smaller than the word "Sustainable." These elements acknowledge our geographic focus on all of southwestern Pennsylvania, in addition to the City of Pittsburgh.

The colors we chose are bold and modern with blue and black as our primary colors and bright blue and green as secondary colors. Red is added for instances of urgency or to call attention. We have also incorporated intersecting lines as a visual motif into the brand, which demonstrate the intersectionality of our work and with partners. In some cases, when oriented in a triangle formation, the lines also convey the idea of moving forward – forward progress.



OUR KEY ROLES IN THE REGION

Sustainable Pittsburgh is a **Convener, Catalyst, Teacher, Resource, and Thought Leader.**

Convener

Sustainable Pittsburgh brings people to the table, providing a forum for discussion and learning, both within and across sectors.

CEOs *for* SUSTAINABILITY

CEOs for Sustainability

Hosted by Sustainable Pittsburgh, CEOs for Sustainability is exemplary executive leadership and collaboration to drive positive change in southwestern Pennsylvania. It is the nation's only executive network providing regional thought leadership on business sustainability. In 2022, CEOs for Sustainability participants balanced continuing talent challenges, rising ESG expectations, and decarbonization opportunities - including historic federal investments - to influence a sustainable economy and thriving region for all.

From partnering with us in convening stakeholders on equitable, multi-sector, regional decarbonization to producing a side event for the Global Clean Energy Action Forum, the CEOs for Sustainability network has enabled peer-to-peer learning and amplification of effort among the region's business leaders who are committed to sustainability.



Above: CEOs for Sustainability co-chair Raymond Yeager, President & CEO, [DMI Companies](#); with members Antonis Papadourakis, Ph.D., President & CEO, [LANXESS](#); and Steven Guy, President & CEO, [Oxford Development](#) joined by Sustainable Pittsburgh Executive Director Joylette Portlock, Ph.D., on stage during the November 2022 C-Suite Summit.

42 PARTICIPATING
COMPANIES

11 TRAININGS & EVENTS
IN 2022

400+ PARTICIPANTS IN
MEETINGS & EVENTS

DISCOVER

Since 2020, the DISCOVER (Defining Intersectional Sustainability to Collaboratively Optimize for a Vibrant and Equitable Region) network has been working toward building a shared vision, goals, and metrics to drive coordinated action and achieve true impact across southwestern PA.

Spearheaded by Sustainable Pittsburgh in partnership with a number of regional conveners, DISCOVER builds beyond data and measurement to create a shared, inclusive framework for tracking sustainability performance, communicating regional needs and progress, and driving coordinated interventions toward regional sustainability outcomes and policies. Representatives from more than 40 institutions have been meeting toward this goal in virtual working groups since the start of the pandemic.

Four working groups are envisioned. The Equity and Environment working groups have crafted over 60 regional targets across 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. These targets, taken together, help shape a regional vision. The final working groups, Infrastructure and Health - to be convened next - will complete this vision and position the network to accomplish its goal of supporting regional organizations with data-driven goals.

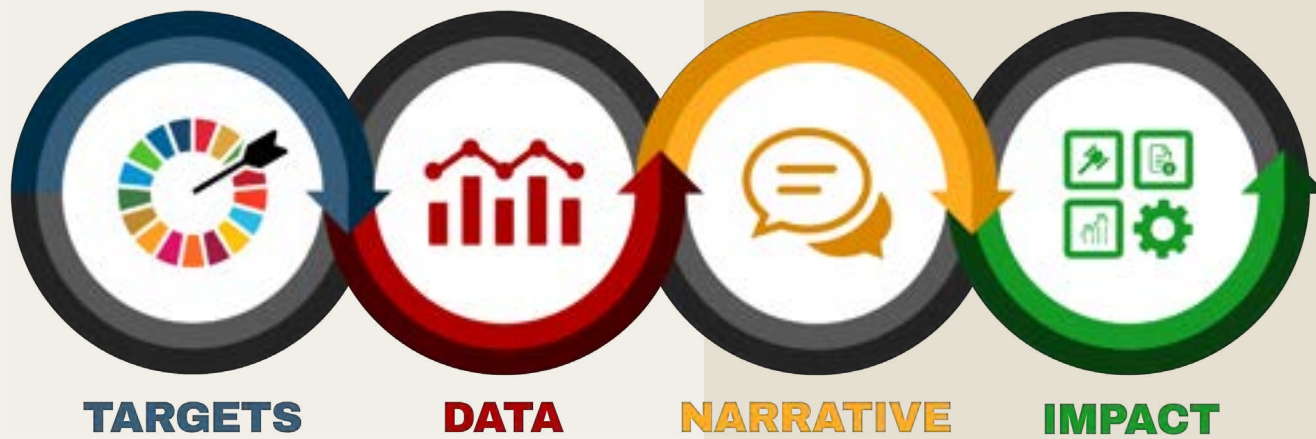
Working Groups:

Equity, Environment, Infrastructure (forthcoming) and Health (forthcoming)

Steering Committee:

- City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, Division of Sustainability and Resilience;
- CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities);
- The Forbes Funds;
- New Sun Rising;
- Sustainable Pittsburgh;
- The Sustainability Initiative at Carnegie Mellon University;
- UrbanKind Institute;
- Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center.

24 DISCOVER MEETINGS IN 2022



Practitioners' Network

The Sustainability Practitioners' Network is a nexus for professional sustainability education and connection. These professionals create the strategies, metrics and tracking systems, reporting mechanisms, and cross-departmental work plans for saving money and advancing impact.

DO MORE TOGETHER.



Catalyst

We activate systems change toward a more sustainable region.

Here's Your Plastic

Here's Your Plastic

The Messaging Working Group of the Plastics Collaborative launched "Here's Your Plastic," which introduced residents of Allegheny County to local activities and resources to spark meaningful conversations around the issues of single-use plastic.

The four week campaign achieved over 947,000 digital impressions and drove more than 8,500 interactions with ads. Paid digital ads sent 4,155 visitors to the website during the campaign time frame.

During the campaign, the Collaborative released an official white paper written by the Plastics Collaborative Policy Working Group that focused on recommendations for how communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania can reduce the impacts of single-use plastics. After a year of research that included reviewing policies and interviewing members of other communities around the United States, the Working Group recommended three targets for policy initiatives to curb single-use plastics in southwestern Pennsylvania: plastic bags, plastic straws, and polystyrene.



Sprints

Sprints are fun, timebound competitions that enable organizations to compete against peers in earning points for actions that advance social equity, carbon-emissions reduction, or another critical topic. Sustainable Pittsburgh launched the first Sprint competition in the fall of 2022 with a focus on social equity.

Twenty-four organizations across southwestern Pennsylvania competed against peers and took point-earning actions in areas covering operations, hiring and promotions, accessibility, procurement, and more. The competition ran from November 2022 through February 2023. Across our programs, more than 1,400 actions toward advancing social equity have been logged.

1,400 SOCIAL EQUITY ACTIONS LOGGED



Teacher

Through our depth of knowledge and expertise, Sustainable Pittsburgh shares information with business and community leaders across southwestern Pennsylvania.

Educational Events

Sustainable Pittsburgh hosted meetings and events for private networks, community groups, and the public during 2022, often in partnership with CEOs for Sustainability. Themes like social equity and climate change were highlighted throughout, as in southwestern Pennsylvania, we see uneven opportunity and health outcomes across race and gender, poor air quality, geography, and the need for an inclusive transition to clean energy.

Speaking Engagements

Sustainable Pittsburgh's subject matter experts participated in 25 speaking engagements with partner organizations and other regional community leaders. A broad range of topics were covered including policy, waste reduction, community engagement, and decarbonization. While each engagement had a particular focus, social equity is highlighted within each conversation as it is a fundamental thread in our work.



Resource

We work to equip organizations with the toolbox they need to meet their sustainability goals and priorities.



A Pathway for Progress

Reopening of the Sustainability Designation Programs

Another major accomplishment for Sustainable Pittsburgh in 2022 was the reopening of our acclaimed sustainability recognition programs and the introduction of a brand new program: Sustainable Pittsburgh Workplace. The four programs, now all on one unified technology platform, provide organizations with a step-by-step process to track and measure sustainability progress, and recognize achievement with Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum designation:

- Sustainable Pennsylvania - for municipalities throughout the Commonwealth; managed in partnership with Pennsylvania Municipal League.
- Sustainable Pittsburgh Workplace - for workplaces of multiple sectors/sizes, including virtual organizations; an evolution of a prior program, the yearlong Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge.

- Sustainable Pittsburgh Shop - for small retail or independently-owned retail businesses.
- Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant - for brick and mortar eateries and foodservice operations.

All of the recognition programs, as of 2022, feature better tracking of aggregated data like diversity, equity, and inclusion metrics; energy usage; waste reduction; and water savings. Sustainable Pittsburgh can use this information to identify areas where businesses and communities might need more support.

50+ NEW ACCOUNTS CREATED IN 2022

Sustainable Pittsburgh Workplace

The newest of Sustainable Pittsburgh's formal recognition programs, Sustainable Pittsburgh Workplace recognizes any business, nonprofit, or other organization that has demonstrated a commitment to environmental, social and governance performance. An evolution of the yearlong competition the Sustainable Pittsburgh Challenge, the Workplace program offers an online assessment that enables organizations to baseline and advance their performance in key areas like carbon reduction, employee hiring and retention, resource conservation, supplier engagement, and others.

The Sustainable Pittsburgh Workplace program offers a globally relevant framework for sustainability progress. It includes best practices to reduce organizational risk and expense, respond to stakeholder expectations, better attract and retain employees, tap new markets and innovations, support the local community, and stand out to customers, investors, and other constituents. As with Sustainable Pittsburgh's other recognition programs, participants may earn Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum designation.

Action Resources:

Resource documents (called Action Resources) for the Sustainable Pennsylvania recognition program are available for community leaders so they can learn more about improving social equity, effective budgeting, intermunicipal collaboration, and more.



Land Use and Housing

Municipalities have significant influence over land use and what type of housing is built. In this section you will find resources to manage land use to improve sustainability and health outcomes, and to create more equitable housing.

[Learn More](#)

Strategic Engagement and Resilience

Effectively fostering community resilience and long term sustainability depends on robust resident, business, and stakeholder participation and buy in. A community that works together for a healthier, more equitable, and prosperous future will be better prepared for dealing with...

[Learn More](#)



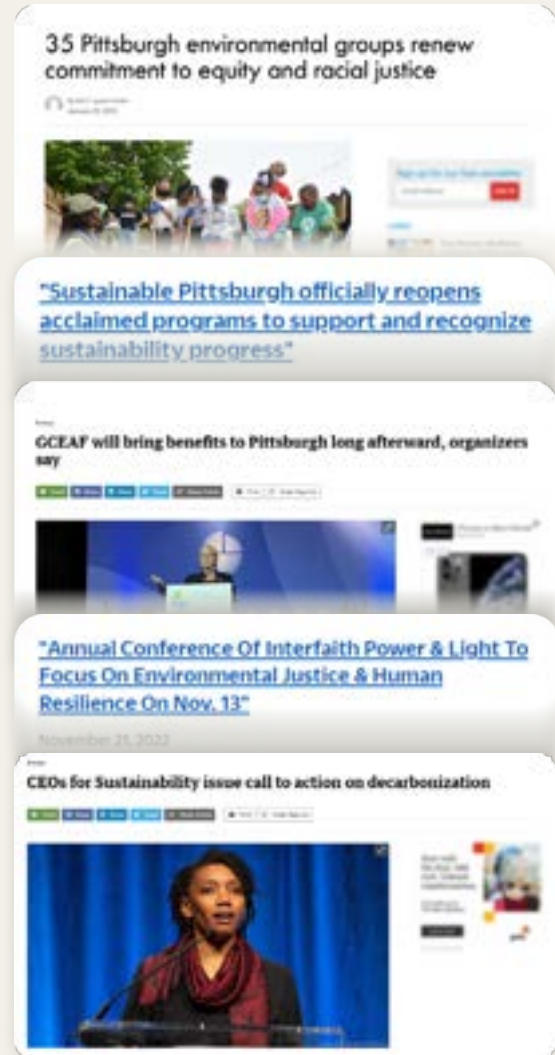
Above: A sampling of publications Sustainable Pittsburgh produced in 2022

Thought Leader

Sustainable Pittsburgh is well-positioned to elevate topics from talent attraction to cleaner air, soil, and water, and to serve as a visionary leader for our region.

Earned Media

Whether it's serving as a subject matter expert for a reporter on deadline or pitching a compelling story to the editorial staff, we recognize the importance of uplifting sustainability knowledge with a broad audience.



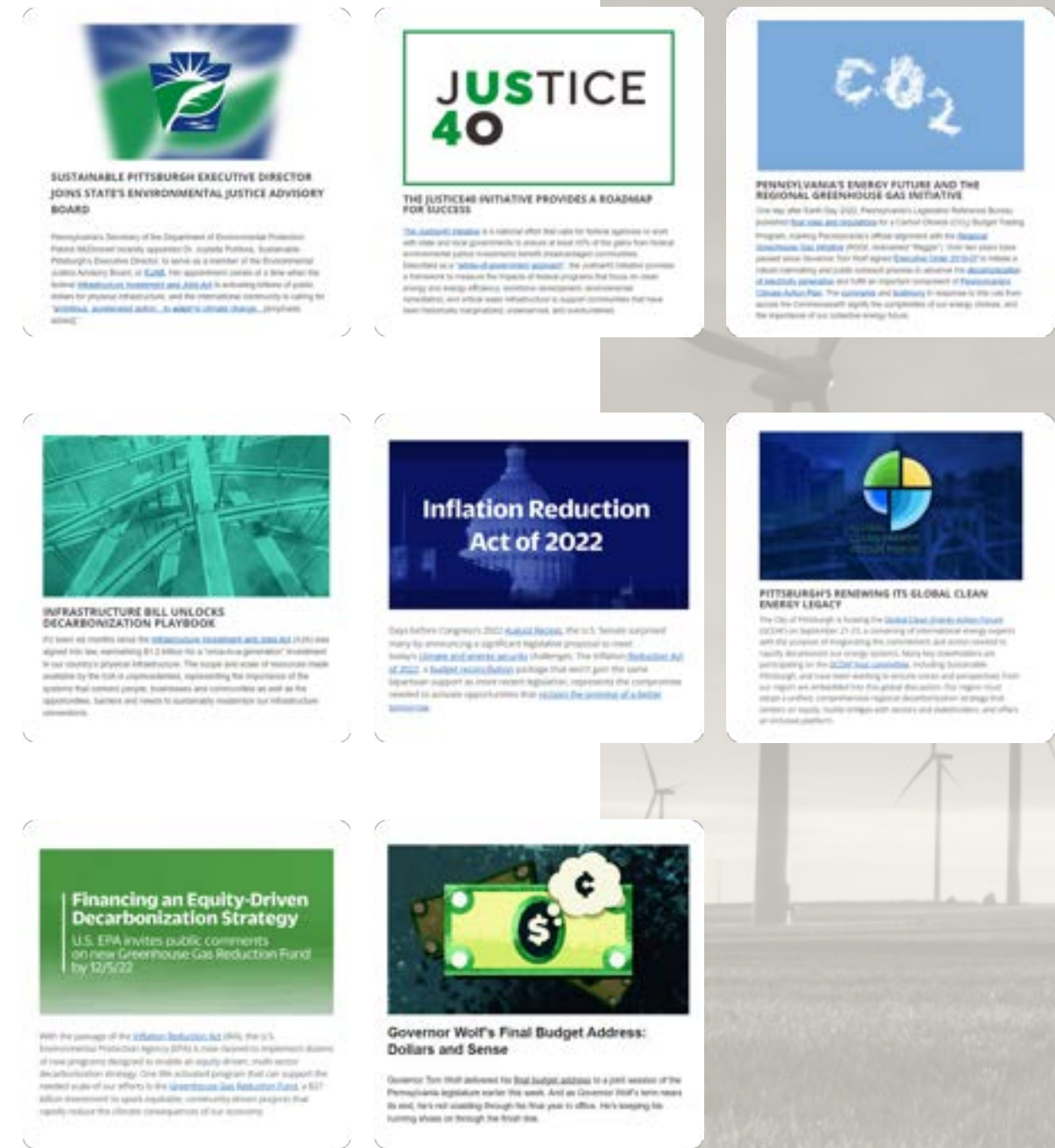
Service to the community

Sustainable Pittsburgh staff lent their expertise to the following boards and committees in 2022 representing sustainability at strategically important tables:

- Allegheny County Board of Health;
- Black Environmental Collective;
- Black Equity Coalition Data group;
- CONNECT - Environment Working Group;
- Environmental Justice Advisory Board,
- PA Department of Environmental Protection;
- Global Clean Energy Action Forum Host Committee (2022);
- Hilltop Urban Farm - Technical Advisory Committee;
- Millvale Community Library Board of Directors;
- Millvale Ecodistrict Collaborative;
- PA Gubernatorial Transition Advisory Committee on Energy & Environment;
- PA Solar Center Board of Directors;
- Pittsburgh Food & Beverage Network - Senior Advisor;
- Restaurant Opportunities Center - Behind the Kitchen Door Project Advisory Committee;
- Riverwise Board of Directors;
- Sustainable States Network - Steering Committee.

Policy Watch

2022 also marked Sustainable Pittsburgh's introduction of a new blog series called Policy Watch. These posts provide our expert analysis on state and federal policies that impact sustainability progress locally. Topics covered included the Justice40 Initiative, Inflation Reduction Act, and beneficial electrification, among others.



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, FUNDERS, AND SPONSORS

Board of Directors

- CB Bhattacharya, *Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh*
- Eryn Correa (Chair), *Correa Legal*
- Kiandra Foster, *University of Pittsburgh*
- Harris Heit (Vice Chair), *Visimo*
- Steve Irwin, *Leech Tishman*
- Chardaé Jones (Secretary)
- An Lewis, *Steel Rivers Council of Government*
- Joylette Portlock (Ex-Officio), *Sustainable Pittsburgh*
- Diane Ramos
- Angela Reynolds, *YWCA Greater Pittsburgh*
- Justine Russo, *PITT OHIO*
- Quincy Kofi Swatson

Funders

- Caroline Fredricka Holdship Charitable Trust
- Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
- Energy Foundation
- Henry L. Hillman Foundation
- The Heinz Endowments
- The Pittsburgh Foundation

Sponsors

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

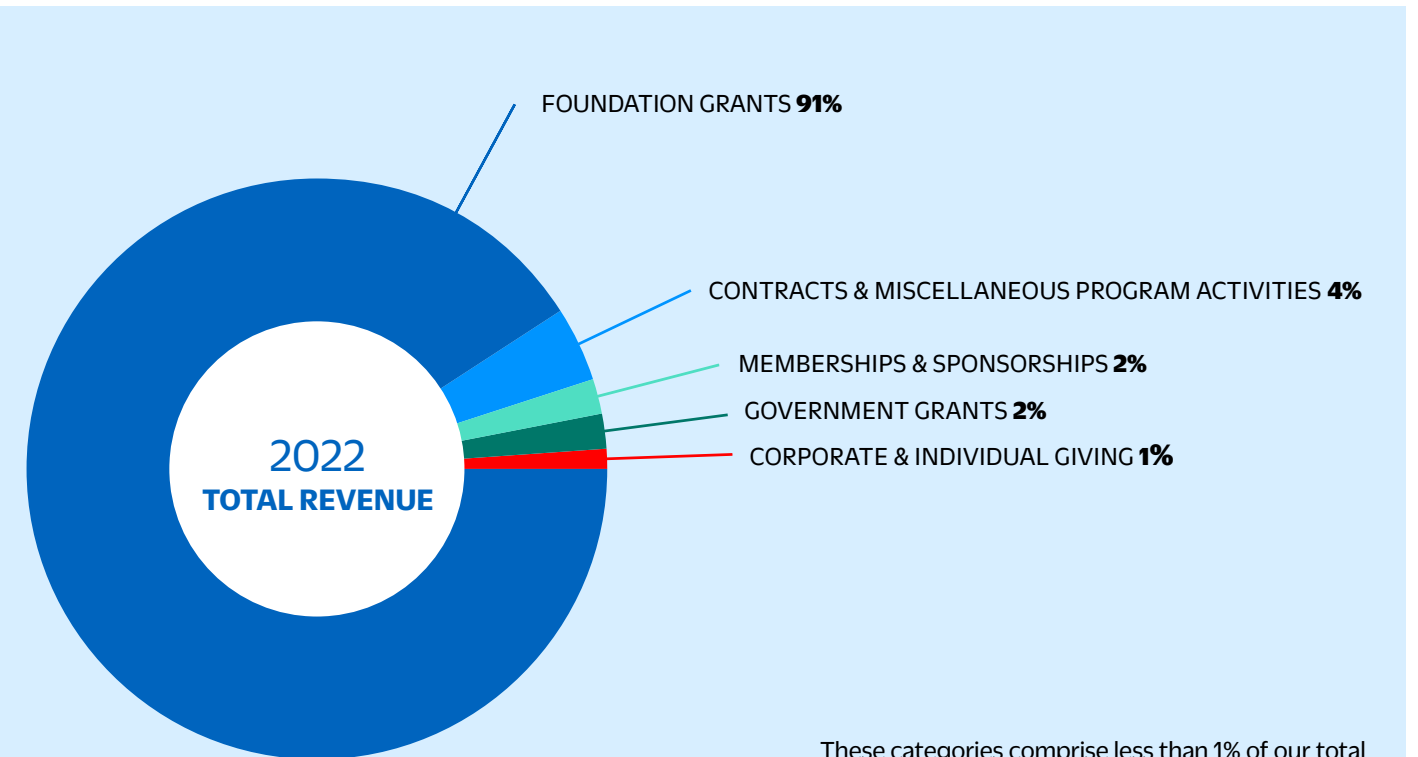


Staff

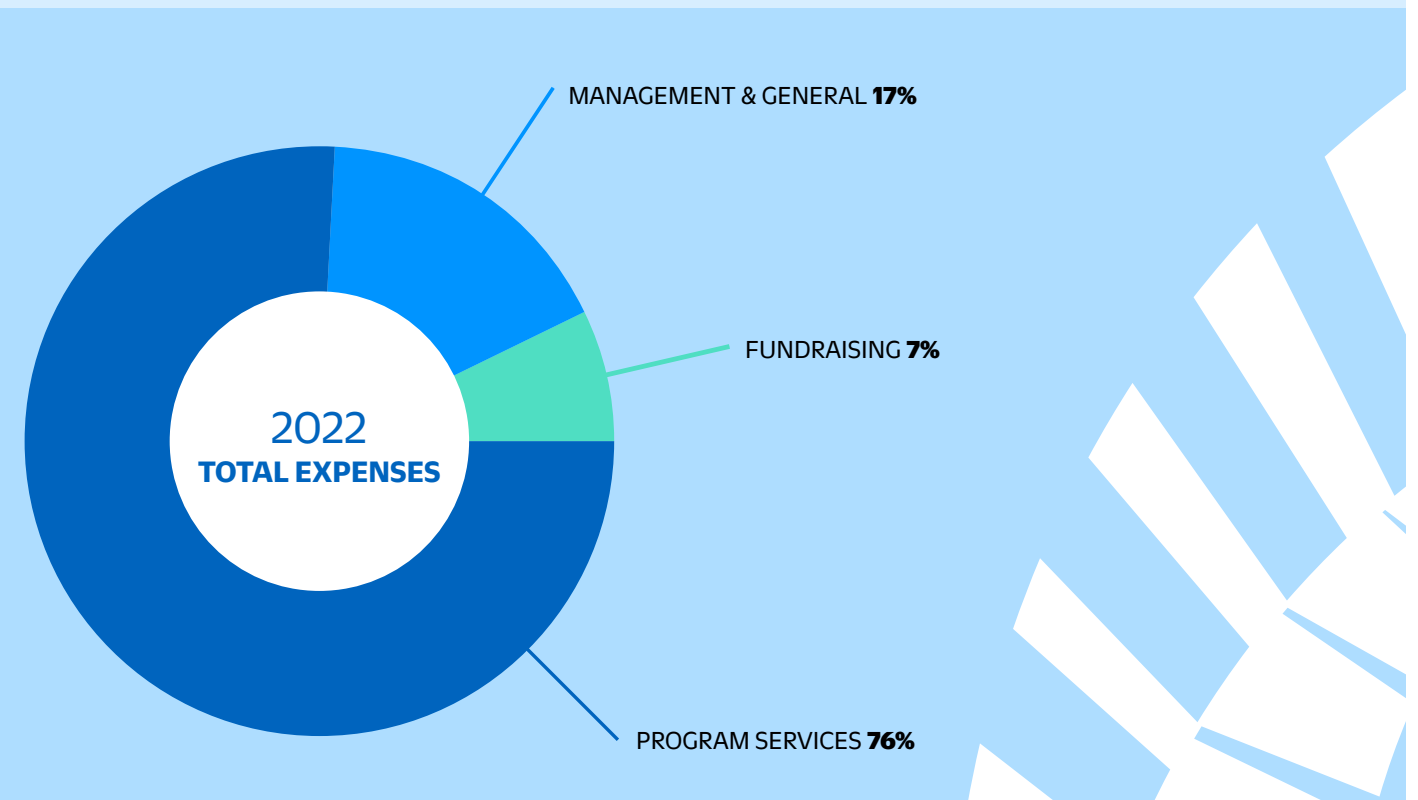
- Joylette Portlock, *Ph.D., Executive Director*
- Donna L. Bour, *Director of Development*
- Gina Johnson, *Director of Programs*
- Matt Mahoney, *Director of Government Affairs*
- Gary Rigdon, *Director of Finance and Administration*
- Ginette Walker Vinski, *Director of Communications*
- Meredith Benek, *Projects and Events Coordinator*
- Rebecca Bykoski, *Senior Program Manager*
- Alexis Henry, *Executive Assistant*
- Carol Pan, *Assistant Programs Manager*
- Jim Price, *Senior Program Manager*
- Sarah SanGiovanni, *Program Manager*
- Sawyer Sidelinger, *Sustainable Programs Coordinator*
- Tyler Sing, *Communications Coordinator*

2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following charts reflect information from our most recent audited financial statements.



These categories comprise less than 1% of our total revenue: Conference Fees and Interest Income.





Sustainable PGH

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