

Earning a Sustainable Pennsylvania Municipal Certification

Municipalities may earn a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum certification through the Sustainable Pennsylvania Program. To achieve a given certification, municipalities must both a) earn a percentage of points based on number of employees and b) complete a set of required actions specific to each certification level. For example, Philadelphia has more than 22,000 non-uniformed employees, making them a Tier 5 municipality. If they achieve a score of 55% and answer all the questions required for Gold, they will be awarded a Gold Certification.

This number of employees is used because municipal size was one of the only statistically relevant indicators of how well a community did on past Sustainable PA assessments.

Required point percentages

To find the point percentage the municipality must achieve to earn each certification, please find the column that corresponds to the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) non-uniformed employees that work for the municipal government. The differences in required point percentages by municipal size reflect the number and type of actions included in the program.

Certification Level	Tier 1: Fewer than 15 employees*	Tier 2: 15 to 50 employees*	Tier 3: 51 to 200 employees*	Tier 4: 201 to 1000 employees*	Tier 5: Greater than 1000 employees*
Committed **	< 15%	< 17%	< 19%	< 21%	< 23%
Bronze	15%	17%	19%	21%	23%
Silver	25%	28%	31%	34%	37%
Gold	35%	39%	43%	47%	51%
Platinum	45%	50%	55%	60%	65%+

*number is based on full time equivalent (FTE) non-uniformed employees. Public safety officers are removed from this calculation because many municipalities in the Commonwealth do not have an internal police force, fire department or EMS service. ** The 'Committed' designation is not considered a certification.

Required actions

Because sustainability includes environmental and social equity dimensions, a municipality must complete the following actions related to each to earn a certification. The required actions are cumulative—for example, to earn a Platinum certification, you must fulfill all of the requirements for Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Environment	Commitment to Passing Sustainable Pennsylvania Resolution	Sustainability Team	Curbside Recycling	Energy Use Intensity Reduction
			Energy Use Tracking	GHG Reduction
			Sharing and Tracking Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Social Equity		Diversity and Inclusion Written Hiring Policy	Community GHG Inventory	Water Usage Tracking
			Sustainability Program	
			Diversity and Inclusion Plan	Diversity and Inclusion Tracking



The Pennsylvania Municipal League is a nonprofit with a mission to strengthen, empower and advocate for effective local government.



Sustainable PGH is a nonprofit committed to building the knowledge, perspective, and ability needed to create a better tomorrow for our region.