

2014-2015 Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge Results

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The Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge is a program of Sustainable Pittsburgh and its business network, Champions for Sustainability.

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The Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge celebrates the 5800+ measurable, sustainability actions of its 200+ participants, going back to 2011. These sustainability actions add up to making a difference for a better present and future for individual GWC participants and for the community through their collective impact.

The concept for the GWC was initiated in 2009-2010 in response to the Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan's goals to reduce climate emissions by 20% below 2003 levels by the year 2023. In 2010 Sustainable Pittsburgh's Business Climate Coalition, a group of 30 business leaders tasked with meeting the business reduction goals for the climate action plan, recommended the need to build and disseminate tools and actions that promote measurement of reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. They also recommended the need to maintain a business case for organizations to implement these actions as well as an ability to be transparent about actions that organizations complete while preserving the confidential nature of business sensitive information.

The result of these three recommendations was the creation of the Green Workplace Challenge. GWC 1.0 (2011-2012) was originally only for businesses and focused only on energy reduction and greenhouse gas reductions. GWC 2.0 (2012-2013) was expanded to include competition categories for local governments, nonprofit organizations, and universities as well as actions relating to water savings, air quality, and commuter footprint reductions. GWC 3.0 (2014-2015) added waste reduction and indoor air quality reduction actions to the competition. Over the course of all three competitions, there has been steady growth in participation and accumulating reductions in impacts.

This report shows what has sprouted when a community recognizes that every action makes a difference and commits to measuring that difference. A hopeful, sustainable future can be achieved as more participants continue to choose to act. Please enjoy the report and consider becoming a part of the transformation. Act to make a difference. Sign up at gwcpgh.org!







CHALLENGE

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The Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge (GWC) enables businesses, nonprofits, universities, and local governments to participate in a friendly, yearlong competition to take actions to become more sustainable and receive public recognition for their achievements.



How Does it Work?

The GWC offers a customizable menu of measurable and verifiable actions for employers and property owners covering several topics, including energy, greenhouse gas emissions, water, waste, transportation, commuter footprint, and employee engagement. By documenting actions that demonstrate measurable change, participants create a trove of actual baselines for future comparison, thereby promoting more progressive, data-driven sustainability operations in the region.

Complete Actions; Get Verified

Competitors in the GWC provide documentation for actions taken via the Green Workplace Challenge Master Playbook, a document containing over 250 green and sustainable actions. The GWC employs several tools to track energy, emissions, water and waste, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager® and Waste Audit Reduction Model, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's CommuteInfo program. Through these tools and internal verification by Sustainable Pittsburgh, GWC competitors establish a baseline of 12 months immediately prior to the competition year and track measurable changes over the 12 months of the competition year. The GWC provides staff support



to assist competitors so that they can maximize their performance and minimize the time needed to compete.

Earn Points

Competitors earn points when they complete actions and after Sustainable Pittsburgh verifies those actions. A competitor's points are posted and updated monthly on the GWC Leaderboard, found online. Competitors can track their point totals via their GWC accounts and the Leaderboard and compare progress against fellow competitors in their category.

Staying in the Game: Support for Competitors

Throughout the competition, Sustainable Pittsburgh provides staff support, weekly newsletters, and presents workshops on a range of sustainability topics to aid participants in crafting and implementing their own sustainability initiatives and in networking to leverage these initiatives. Each workshop features a panel of competitors discussing their strategies and how they are achieving success. Workshop topics in 2014-2015 covered Energy Efficiency; Employee Engagement; Purchasing, Supply Chain, and Waste Reduction; and Advanced Technology, Innovation and the GWC.



TOP SCORERS

03

2014–2015 Pittsburgh GWC Top Scorers

Businesses

Micro Business Category: Pashek Associates | 235 points Small Business Category: evolveEA | 598 points Medium Business Category: The Mall at Robinson | 507 points Large Business Category: Highmark | 1,003 points

Nonprofits

Micro Nonprofit Category: Group Against Smog and Pollution | 431 points Small Nonprofit Category: GTECH | 722 points Medium Nonprofit Category: Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh | 743 points

University Category Winner: University of Pittsburgh | 770 points

Municipality/Local Government Category

Small Municipality/Local Government: Monaca Borough | 310 points Large Municipality/Local Government: Allegheny County | 1,353 points

Top Saver Awards (vs. prior 12-month baseline)

Top Energy Saver: Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh (21.5% Reduction) Top Water Saver: Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh (17% Reduction) Top Waste Reducer: Allegheny County (62% Reduction in Landfilled Waste) Top Commuter Footprint Reducer: GTECH Strategies (9.4% Reduction)

Top Legacy Performer

Conservation Consultants, Inc. (65.5% Energy Reduction compared to original baseline year of 2010-2011)













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ACHIEVEMENTS

04

GWC Participant Achievements

During the Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge 3.0, 49 competitors completed 1,931 sustainable actions, many of which involved engaging thousands of regional employees in sustainability programming.





Participants saved over **\$1.5 million** from energy savings. Including the social cost of carbon, the savings add up to more than \$1.8 million.



Participants saved **2,865 metric tons** of carbon dioxide equivalent. To achieve the same reduction in CO₂ emissions, Pittsburgh International Airport would have to cancel 73 airline flights of 500 miles.



Participants saved **18.5 million kWh** of energy, enough to power 1,541 average U.S. homes for a year. This translates to more than all of the single homes in the City of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods of Polish Hill, Swisshelm Park, and St Clair.



2,700 pounds of particulate matter

Participants also prevented **2,700 pounds of particulate matter** (PM 2.5 microns) from entering the atmosphere. These particles cause serious health impacts, such as respiratory and heart problems, for the residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania.



436 tons of landfill waste

Participants reduced landfill waste by **436 tons**. Participants reduced their waste by 35% compared to the baseline, increasing landfill diversion rate by 20%.

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28.5 million gallons of water

Participants did not save water in the 2014-2015 GWC. Participants used an additional **28.5 million gallons of water** as compared with the completion baseline. This is enough to fill Heinz Field with 66 feet of water. This is a statistic to improve in GWC 4.0.

Participant Achievements

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Final Leaderboards



Micro Nonprofit







School

Micro Business





598

500

Points by Action Category

Small Business

Points by Action Category



Medium Business





Observer





Media Coverage

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette[®] TRIBUNE-REVIEW











25,655 tons of carbon dioxide

Three GWC Competitions Demonstrate Significant Impact (2011–2015)

\$8.9 million in energy savings The past three GWC competitions resulted in significant environmental and economic savings for the region. More than 200 competitors saved **111 million kWh of electricity**, resulting in **\$8.9 million in energy savings** alone. Adding the estimated social cost of carbon (storm damage, insurance, health care and other costs associated with climate change), this number rises to at least \$9.4 million. Competitors eliminated **25,655 tons of carbon dioxide** equivalent by reducing emissions. That's the same as eliminating nearly five days of air traffic from Pittsburgh International Airport. They also prevented **6,500 pounds of particulate matter** from entering the atmosphere, and saved **67 million gallons of water** enough water to flood Heinz Field to a height of 93 feet.



111 million kWh of electricity



67 million gallons of water 6,500 pounds of particulate matter

stories

Insights from Participants

Stories 16

ALCOSAN



After our victory last year, ALCOSAN Green by Mission, Green by Choice enthusiastically continued the changes we made and added more sustainable actions, embedding them into our daily habits and workplace culture. Our committee from all levels of the facility approached our work with creativity to discover new ways to carry our green mission further. We conducted an energy audit, waste audit, air quality testing, and an employee survey to identify strategic improvements to benefit the environment, employees, and our rate payers, now and in the future. We are proud of our accomplishments, and extremely excited to help our employees walk tall in our path towards sustainability.

-MEGAN CIESLAK-MAZZA | RESIDUALS SPECIALIST & CHAIR OF GREEN BY CHOICE COMMITTEE

Allegheny County



At Allegheny County, the 2015 GWC has become a team event. Our workforce is engaged in ensuring that the county's efforts to reduce energy and water usage and waste are sustainable and also expand beyond our walls. With active participation by our Green Team and Green Champions throughout the year, our employees have also embraced the efforts at the county and adopted many of the practices at home. Together with the other GWC participants, we've been able to reduce costs, improve performance, and increase long-term environmental sustainability, making our region a better place for all.

-KATHY HRABOVSKY | SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

BNY Mellon



BNY Mellon has participated in the GWC since the inaugural competition. Each competition has been rewarding and has allowed us to build relationships with fellow competitors and share best practices. Our Sustainability team has learned a lot from this engagement opportunity and has been able to assess the performance of our Pittsburgh building portfolio as compared to similar facilities.

-NANCY JONES | RESEARCH ANALYST

Carlow University



BLUE (Benevolent Living Upon Earth) is a new organization on our campus and the Green Workplace Challenge helped us to focus our work as we got started. The event we enjoyed most last semester was Earth Hour. We invited students to turn off the lights in the residence hour and gather in a central location for smores and hot chocolate. It was an opportunity to participate in a worldwide event with the goal of helping students to understand how simple it can be to conserve electricity. About 50 students participated.

-SISTER SHEILA CARNEY | SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT -GINA MARIE MCGOWAN | STUDENT -SHANNON COMPOLONGO | STUDENT

Carnegie Mellon University



Carnegie Mellon University more than tripled our points for the 2015 Green Workplace Challenge due to the help of our Student Conservation Association Sustainability Fellow that we share with the Higher Education Climate Consortium (HECC), a sector of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative. What became very apparent to me this year is how essential the SCA Sustainability Fellows are in making the GWC initiative possible for all of us. They coordinated the GWC, supported numerous environmental initiatives, and working as a team, connected organizations together to collaborate on environmental initiatives. Thank you SCA Sustainability Fellows for all that you do for Pittsburgh!

-BARBARA KVIZ | ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh



We welcomed the opportunity to join with other organizations to challenge ourselves to do better. We greatly benefited from it, and we plan to keep up our energy-saving efforts!

-TONY YOUNG | VICE PRESIDENT, FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND PLANNING

Conservation Consultants Inc.



Initially Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI) became involved in the Green Workplace Challenge (GWC) to give structure to our LEED recertification effort. GWC is easier to complete but quite similar in the green building and behavior components addressed. To our surprise we finished first in our category in the competition last year. This year we really had to stretch to find categories in which to submit. Since we specialize in energy efficiency we decided to up our anti on our building's energy efficiency. We scheduled training workshops for our employees to fine tune their energy auditing skills. We also took action on our buildings energy audit to make our already energy efficient building more so. GWC helped CCI put structure on our ever ongoing greening efforts.

Duquesne SMBA



The GWC opportunity fosters sustainability practices that helps students identify and conduct activities that contribute to more sustainable operations. The GWC not only showcases the best practices of one building, the Business school, but it also enables and allows students to know what is already being done in terms of energy conservation, waste reduction etc. and what they can do in the future to be a more sustainable at work and at home. Here at Duquesne's Rockwell Hall we were able to showcase our sustainability initiatives and also foster new student lead initiatives that help integrate sustainability within curriculum as a living/learning laboratory.

-DR. ROBERT SROUFE | MURRIN CHAIR OF GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

evolveEA



The GWC has helped us measure our sustainability impact as a workplace and we also value the network of participating organizations for elevating the regional conversation on the environment. Our managing principal, Marc Modor, AIA, LEED Fellow, remarked today, "Over the years it has been rewarding to be part of the GWC and to be recognized by Sustainable Pittsburgh and our peers in the region for doing what we do every day advocating for sustainability and advancing solutions in our environment."

-DANIEL KLEIN | COMMUNICATION DESIGNER

Five Star Development



Seeking a zero waste office is good for everyone. Five Star was able to realize a major transformation in our office environment shortly after we began the GWC. Our air quality and trash/recycling load, the balance between artificial and day light, the plants we share and foods we eat, even the water we drink were all improved by our participation and we even saved money! As a 20 year veteran of the tech Industry, Five Star knows impact and longevity come from improving year over year, so we are looking forward to next year's challenge!

-LOU CAMERLENGO | PRESIDENT AND COFOUNDER

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Green Building Alliance



The Green Workplace Challenge brought to light additional steps that we can take toward meeting our short- and long-term sustainability goals. The guidebook and checklist were well organized in an understandable format and the workshops were very informative. We look forward to participating in the next GWC!

-SANDRA CLOSSON | SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

Green Building Alliance is dedicated to the Green Workplace Challenge all year round. Our entire staff embraces and supports the goals of the Challenge, actively making the best decisions daily and ensuring that all things are documented. The GWC has raised awareness in our office about all of the little things that can add up to make our office more sustainable and a happier place to work.

-DEANNA MCPEAK | RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR





At Highmark, our efforts to become a more sustainable company align with our corporate values, specifically stewardship, to improve the health of the communities we serve. The Green Workplace Challenge supports this journey and allows us to track our progress in important areas of resource conservation while competing against others. Thank you GWC for pushing us further!

-PHYLLIS BARBER | SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

IKEA Pittsburgh has really enjoyed being a part of the green workplace challenge again this year. Just having a checklist of actions to consult helps us to determine more ways that we as a company can work toward a more sustainable footprint. The legacy points this year were appreciated as it gives us some credit for our previous work and the innovative actions allowed us to talk about new actions we have taken apart from the usual action items. It's so great to know just how much of an impact our combined small actions are making in Pittsburgh!

-JENNIFER STOCKDALE | MARKETING SPECIALIST

IKEA

Kanakadhara Financial



We at Kanakadhara Financial Enterprise are delighted to participate in GWC initiatives. Replacing the floor with bamboo flooring was the start. We installed rain barrels and already our water bill was slashed by 2/3 rd. We hope to install solar panels and energy efficient doors and windows. We have advocated Meatless Mondays with all our clients and neighbors, and look forward to working with other businesses to eliminate Styrofoam packaging. Not only are these good for the environment, they are good for the pocket book too!

-KANAK IYER PH.D | PRESIDENT

Mall at Robinson



The Mall at Robinson management team has been implementing sustainable initiatives since 2005. Participating in the GWC has given us the opportunity to evaluate our sustainable performance and has prompted us to explore new actions. We appreciate the support and direction the Sustainable Pittsburgh team has provided us.

-BETH EDWARDS | GENERAL MANAGER

Monaca



The GWC inspired the Borough of Monaca to become better environmental stewards for our future citizens. We engaged our employees in the workplace, but what we remarkably noticed that it resonated with them outside of the workplace and into our community as well. The GWC helped us in promoting to both our employees and residents of our moral obligation in being more Sustainable. We are proud to state that through our participation in the GWC our results show a significant Economic, Environmental, and Social improvement throughout our Borough.

-MARIO LEONE | BOROUGH MANAGER

Moon Township



The GWC was a great template for Moon. As far as lasting results, we switched our electricity sourcing over to 100% wind power and retrofitted 138 streetlights to LED. Working towards the actions got our Environmental Advisory Council energized and interested in participating more in projects and initiatives throughout the municipality.

-REBECCA KIERNAN | SENIOR RESILIENCE COORDINATOR

Pashek Associates



The Green Workplace Challenge has helped Pashek Associates climb the steps towards becoming a more sustainably run office. As a small design office with few resources in both time and money we were still able to take actions that make a difference in our third year of competition. This year we installed motion sensor lighting in our hallways and kitchen, switched to 100% recycled and process chlorine free paper, started buying 100% green energy, monitored our indoor air quality for possible future action, and implemented a rolling transition to LED lighting. The biggest disappointment was having only one other challenger in our category to compete with. So micro businesses with 10 or fewer employees, there is no excuse, if we can do it you can do it!

Pennsylvania Resources Council



PRC rose to the occasion for the 2014-2015 Green Workplace Challenge year! Although organizationally most PRC Staff practice waste, water, and energy conservation on a regular basis, the employees wanted to put it to the test and see what they could do while at work. During this challenge, PRC learned many new resources to tackle waste, water, and energy consumption from other organizations nationally and even locally. The GWC Staff was very helpful and attentive when they had questions during the one year process.

-TERESA BRADLEY | ZERO WASTE SERVICES COORDINATOR

-SARA THOMPSON | VICE PRESIDENT OF SUSTAINABILITY

COMMITTEE **07**

2014–2015 GWC Oversight Committee

Sustainable Pittsburgh engages an oversight committee for each Green Workplace Challenge in order to provide professional oversight and expertise, ensure that various stakeholders have a voice in the competition, and ensure that the competition is fair. This committee consists of representatives from businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and colleges/universities.

THANK YOU, GWC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Jamin Bogi Policy and Outreach Coordinator Group Against Smog and Pollution

Teresa Bradley

Zero Waste Services Coordinator Pennsylvania Resource Council

Aftyn Giles Sustainability Coordinator City of Pittsburgh

Kathy Hrabovsky

Sustainability Manager Allegheny County

Mario Leone

Borough Manager Monaca Borough

Joyce O'Connor

Principal Cardinal Resources LLC

Lisa Kay Schweyer

Program Developer CommuteInfo Program Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Aurora Sharrard

VP of Innovation Green Building Alliance

Sara Thompson

Landscape Architect Pashek Associates

Mary Whitney

University Sustainability Coordinator Chatham University





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Act to Make a Difference.

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