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**Sustainable Pittsburgh announces the winners of the 2014-2015
Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge!**

***- This third round of competition shows continued increase in participants and engagement
- Competitors demonstrate significant regional impact on energy savings and more***

(PITTSBURGH, PA – December 2, 2015) On Wednesday, Dec. 2, Sustainable Pittsburgh revealed the leaders of the 2014-2015 Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge, a yearlong, friendly competition for businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and universities to track and measure improvements in energy, water, waste, and transportation. The finale and awards ceremony took place from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at The Andy Warhol Museum on Pittsburgh's North Side.

Fifty employers from throughout southwestern Pennsylvania completed the competition, which began in October 2014 and ended on October 31, 2015. These participants took a total of 1,931 "green actions," each of which earned them points in the challenge. Point-earning actions ranged from switching out less efficient light bulbs for more energy efficient ones, establishing recycling programs, encouraging carpooling, and over 200 more! Over the course of three competitions, 200+ participants took 5,831 actions.

Sustainable Pittsburgh presented special awards for the Top Energy Saver, Top Water Saver, and new this year: Top Waste Reducer and Top Commuter Footprint Reducer. Another special and new award was presented this evening, called the Top Legacy Performer. This award is for the organization that demonstrated the most energy savings after participating in all three of the Green Workplace Challenge competitions. Sustainable Pittsburgh presented the Top Legacy Performer award to Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI). CCI has seen savings of 65.5% in energy compared to the original baseline year of 2010-2011 (which was the year of the first competition).

The 2014-2015 GWC top scorers in each category are as follows:

Micro Business Category Winner: Pashek Associates – 235 points

The micro business runner up is Kanakadhara Financial with 37 points.

Small Business Category Winner: evolveEA – 598 points

The small business runner up is Jonano with 139 points.

Medium Business Category Winner: The Mall at Robinson – 507 points

The medium business runner up is: IKEA – 211 points.

Third place in the medium business category is Veolia – 135 points.

Large Business Category Winner: Highmark – 1,003 points

The large business runner up is BNY Mellon – 865 points.

Third place in the large business category is: The PNC Financial Services Group – 558 points.

Micro Nonprofit Category Winner: Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) – 431 points

The micro nonprofit runner up is Pennsylvania Resources Council – 380 points

Small Nonprofit Category Winner: GTECH – 722 points

The small nonprofit runner up is Green Building Alliance – 564 points.

Third place in the small nonprofit category is Conservation Consultants, Inc. – 390 points.

Medium Nonprofit Category Winner – Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh – 743 points

The medium nonprofit runner up is ALCOSAN – 432 points.

Third place in the medium nonprofit category is Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium – 124 points.

University Category Winner: University of Pittsburgh – 770 points

The university runner up is Carnegie Mellon University – 490 points.

Third place in the university category is Chatham University – 489 points.

Small Municipality/Local Government winner: Monaca Borough – 310 points

The small municipality/local government runner up is Upper Saint Clair – 185 points.

Third place in the small municipality/local government category is Moon Township – 129 points.

Large Municipality/Local Government winner is Allegheny County – 1,353 points.

The large municipality/local government runner up is City of Pittsburgh – 622 points.

The Top Energy Saver Award was presented to the organization that achieved the highest *percentage* of measured reduction in workspace energy consumption from this competition year compared to the prior year, as measured using the U.S. EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Sustainable Pittsburgh presented the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh with the Top Energy Saver award. The Museums reduced their energy usage 21.5% over the course of the year.

Similarly, the Top Water Saver award is presented to the organization that achieved the highest percentage of measured reduction in workspace water consumption from this competition year compared to the prior year, also measured using EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh also received the Top Water Saver award, having reduced their water usage 17%.

Allegheny County received the Top Waste Reducer award, having a 62% reduction in landfilled waste mass. The Top Waste Reducer award goes to the organization that has the highest reduction percentage of landfill waste through reducing the amount of landfill waste outright and through capturing and diverting recyclable and compostable waste from the landfill.

GTECH Strategies received the Top Commuter Footprint Reducer award, having reduced their commuter footprint by 9.4% over the past year. This award goes to the organization that demonstrated the largest percentage reduction in equivalent greenhouse gas emissions from their commuter profile. The

reductions occur when people switch from more impactful modes of transit (such as driving alone) to less impactful modes, such as public transit, vanpools, carpools, bicycling, or walking.

All winners received special awards made from reclaimed materials, produced by partners through the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse.

Combined, all of the active Green Workplace Challenge competitors saved enough energy to power 1,541 average U.S. homes for a year (18,602,681 kWh of energy savings), translating to \$1.5 million in cost savings. Factoring in the social cost of carbon, the savings are between \$1.65-\$2 million. The amount of energy saved equates to more than all of the occupied homes in Polish Hill (697 homes), Swisshelm Park (625 homes), and St. Clair (209 homes) for a year.

The cumulative energy savings since the first GWC competition in 2011, through this third competition ending in 2015, resulted in over \$8.9 million saved (including social cost of carbon: \$9.35-\$10.1 million). This translates to saving a year's worth of energy for 9,741 average U.S. households, or in other words, **more than 10% of single family homes located in the City of Pittsburgh.**

This year's GWC participants reduced landfill waste by 436 tons, or 35% compared to the baseline. Total waste, which includes compostable, recyclable, and landfill materials, was reduced 517 tons or 24%. This is an increase in the diversion rate by 20%.

In terms of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, participants saved over 2,865 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, which translates to roughly 73 airline flights of 500 miles: roughly 2/3 of a day worth of all flights leaving Pittsburgh International Airport on a typical day. Additionally, participants saved 2,700 pounds of PM 2.5 from entering the atmosphere.

Matt Mehalik, Program Director for Sustainable Pittsburgh, said, "The organizations that have participated in the Green Workplace Challenge once again illustrate that each action to save resources contributes to a larger effort that makes a significant impact. Our region moves along towards a more sustainable path with each and every effort. Taking green, sustainable actions in the workplace indeed make an important difference."

The GWC award ceremony featured welcoming remarks from Sustainable Pittsburgh's SCA Green Cities Fellows, Carol Pan and Delphine Slotten, as well as from Anthony J. Young, Vice President, Facilities Planning and Operations, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, and Larry Godleski, Director of Sales for Constellation, an Exelon Company.

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, along with Bill Flanagan, Chief Corporate Relations Officer, Allegheny Conference on Community Development; and Philip Johnson, Program Director for Science and Environment, The Heinz Endowments; provided a high level perspective on Regional Leadership in Sustainability: Governance, Economy, and Health.

The keynote was presented by Tom Szaky, Co-Founder and CEO of Terracycle, and author of *Outsmart Waste* and *Revolution in a Bottle*. TerraCycle, an international leader in the collection and repurposing of hard-to-recycle post-consumer waste, from used chip bags to cigarette butts. On a yearly basis and across 23

countries, TerraCycle collects and repurposes billions of pieces of waste, creating millions of dollars of donations for schools and charities in the process.

The top scorers from each category participated in a panel discussion and Q&A session to reflect on their GWC experiences from the past year and on what propelled them to the top of the leaderboard.

The Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge is an initiative of Sustainable Pittsburgh's [Champions for Sustainability](#) business network. The GWC is on Twitter (www.twitter.com/pittsburghgwc) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/pittsburghgreenworkplacechallenge). Constellation, an Exelon Company, is the GWC Presenting Sponsor and the Pittsburgh Business Times, 90.5 WESA and WYEP are the Media Sponsors.

More information about the GWC is available at www.gwcpgh.org or by contacting Carol Pan at gwc@sustainablepittsburgh.org.

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.

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

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