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**Sustainable Pittsburgh announces the winners of the 2011-2012
Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge!**

*- Participants demonstrate significant regional impact on energy and water savings, and reductions
in greenhouse gas emissions*

*- Sustainable Business Compact unveiled as next step for building sustainable businesses and
sustainable region*

(PITTSBURGH, PA – October 18, 2012) On Thursday, October 18, 2012 Sustainable Pittsburgh announced the winners of the first ever Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge (GWC) during a morning program held at Phipps Conservatory. The organization also shared the significant positive impact the participants have had on the region over the past year.

The winners of the competition are as follows:

Small Business Category Winner: evolve environment::architecture – 221 points

The small business runner up is Pashek Associates with 147 points.

Medium Business Category Winner: Eaton Corporation – 78 points

The medium business runner up is: Ductmate – 74 points

Third place in the medium business category is WESCO – 69 points

Large Business Category Winner: Bayer Corporation – 221 points

The large business runner up is PNC Financial Services Group – 198 points

Third place in the large business category is: BNY Mellon – 188 points

In the Observer category, a non-competitive category, the top three scorers are Allegheny County with 320 points, Green Building Alliance – 219 points, and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank – 97 points.

Combined, the 50+ forward-thinking organizations participating in the Green Workplace Challenge saved enough energy to power 5,842 average U.S. homes for a year (67,159,765 kWh of energy savings). This equates to more than all of the occupied homes in East Allegheny (1252 homes), Friendship (1071), Hays (166), Polish Hill (697), Regent Square (456), and Southside Slopes (2130) for a year. Additionally, enough water was saved to fill Heinz Field with 13 feet of water! (Nearly 91 million gallons saved!) In terms of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, participants saved over 18,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, which

translates to roughly 452 airline flights of 500 miles: 3.1 days worth of all flights leaving Pittsburgh International Airport on a given day.

Matt Mehalik, Program Manager for Sustainable Pittsburgh, said, “When you consider the positive impact of these actions across the many participating organizations, it is clear that applying sustainability policies and practices in the workplace leads to energy efficiency, clean air, and bottom line savings, cumulatively leading to our region’s improvement and continuing transformation—a better place to work and a better place to live: the core of a sustainable region.”

Victor Olgyay, Principal Architect, Built Environment Team, from the Rocky Mountain Institute presented the keynote, “Taking Energy Efficiency to Scale: The Empire State Building.” One year after completing the project, the Empire State Building is ahead of plan and has exceeded its year one energy-efficiency guarantee by five percent, saving \$2.4 million and establishing a commercial real estate model for reducing costs, maximizing return on investment, increasing real estate value, and protecting the environment.

Sustainable Pittsburgh unveiled the Southwestern Pennsylvania Sustainable Business Compact at the event, the next step toward building a more sustainable region. The Compact is a commitment and certification platform, providing a credible and rigorous pathway for businesses to advance and publicly demonstrate their corporate sustainability achievements. It steps beyond the “green” actions found in the Green Workplace Challenge and embraces additional components of sustainability like diversity, smart growth, workforce development, governance and management.

BNY Mellon serves on the advisory committee for Champions for Sustainability, the region’s sustainable business network coordinated by Sustainable Pittsburgh.

Vince Sands, Chairman of BNY Mellon Pennsylvania, says, “BNY Mellon sees value in being involved with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Sustainable Business Compact as the initiative helps further sustainable practices among businesses and presents opportunities that align with our region’s continuing transformation based on innovation. In addition, the Compact will deliver leadership, cost savings, reputation enhancement and public recognition opportunities for businesses.”

“This Compact is a bold, new business initiative for southwestern Pennsylvania,” says Mehalik. “Tailored to this region’s unique sustainability needs and opportunities, the Compact facilitates the collaboration of business and community on a regional level, and because of that, it contributes to innovation, talent attraction, investment, and healthier people and communities.”

Information on the SWPA Sustainable Business Compact is available at www.C4SPgh.org. Both the Compact and the Pittsburgh Green Workplace Challenge are initiatives of Sustainable Pittsburgh’s [Champions for Sustainability](http://www.C4SPgh.org) business network. The Pittsburgh Business Times is the GWC Media Sponsor. More information about the GWC is available at <http://greenchallenge.C4SPgh.org> or by contacting Amanda Virbitsky 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 for the Pittsburgh region to integrate economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental quality bringing sustainable solutions to communities and businesses. Over the past 14 years, SP has proven adept at building coalitions for change on issues that get at the heart of sustainability for southwestern Pennsylvania.

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