



---

*Champions for Sustainability  
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee*

Vol. 2 No. 5  
November 2010

**BCC  
Steering Committee  
Update  
Briefing  
Meeting Date:  
November 2, 2010**

Champions for Sustainability (C4S)  
A Program of Sustainable Pittsburgh  
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1335  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone (412) 258-6642  
Fax (412) 258-6645  
[www.sustainablepittsburgh.org](http://www.sustainablepittsburgh.org)

This document is available from [www.C4SPgh.org](http://www.C4SPgh.org) as a service to its members of Champions for Sustainability, a program of Sustainable Pittsburgh.

Copyright © 2010 All Rights Reserved

## **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

### **C4S Steering Committee**

Phyllis Barber  
(Steering Committee  
Co-Chair)  
Sustainability  
Coordinator  
Environmental  
Management  
Highmark

Dr. Eric Beckman  
Co-Director  
Science &  
Technology  
Mascaro  
Sustainability  
Initiative

Beth Edwards  
General Manager  
The Mall at Robinson  
The Mall at Robinson  
Management Office

Bill Flanagan  
Executive Vice  
President, Corporate  
Relations  
Allegheny  
Conference on  
Community  
Development

Benson Gabler  
Manager of Corporate  
Sustainability  
PNC Financial  
Services Group

Scott Golla  
Principal Corporate  
Environmental  
Engineer  
Westinghouse  
Electric Company  
LLC

Lee Hipps  
Director of Nonprofit  
Technology Practice  
Ceeva, Inc.

Drew Johnston  
Global Facilities  
Director  
Medrad, Inc

David Kahley  
President & CEO  
Progress Fund

Mike Kane  
Executive Director  
Community  
Foundation for the  
Alleghenies

Deborah Lange, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Steinbrenner Institute  
for Environmental  
Education and  
Research  
Carnegie Mellon

Dr. Irene E. McGee  
Vice President  
Health, Safety,  
Environment and  
Quality  
Bayer Material  
Science LLC

Allison Robinson,  
Ph.D.  
Director,  
Environmental  
Initiatives  
UPMC

Jerry Swart  
(Steering Committee  
Co-Chair)  
Managing Director  
Environmental  
Services Department  
FedEx Ground

### **Executive Summary**

This document contains a compilation of useful information that committee members may want to review through November 2, 2010, as well as a summary of notes from the Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee meeting from September 7, 2010.

### **C4S Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee**

Champions for Sustainability convenes leaders from Pittsburgh area businesses to recommend actions related to Pittsburgh's climate. The group meets every 8 weeks. The goals of the BCC are to:

- To provide an opportunity for businesses in Pittsburgh to learn what others companies and organizations are doing related to climate initiatives
- To design and oversee BCC events which raise awareness of climate related activities
- To create a best practices guide and case studies for local businesses relating to climate initiatives
- To oversee the Pittsburgh Business Climate Leadership Awards Program

### **About C4S**

Champions for Sustainability brings together companies large and small, from many different industries, entrepreneurs, community leaders, university researchers, educators, and other social ventures to put sustainability into practice. C4S aspires to be the most effective region-based collaboration of leaders accelerating the practice and policy of sustainability in business and civic circles. Champions for Sustainability provides value to firms and organizations that seek sustainable solutions to operational practices through convening, networking, and direct consulting.

### **Memberships and Information:**

- Champions for Sustainability [www.C4SPgh.org](http://www.C4SPgh.org)
- Sustainable Pittsburgh [www.sustainablepittsburgh.org](http://www.sustainablepittsburgh.org)

### **C4S Program Administration**

Matthew M. Mehalik, Ph.D.  
Program Manager  
Sustainable Pittsburgh

### **Sustainability Coordinator Leadership**

Phyllis Barber  
(Steering Committee Co-Chair)  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Environmental Management  
Highmark

**BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010****Members of the 2010 Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee:**

**Mr. Steve Bland**  
Port Authority of  
Allegheny County

**Mr. JD Fogarty**  
Port of Pittsburgh  
Commission

**Ms. Christine Mondor**  
evolve environment::  
architecture

**Mr. John Burke**  
URA

**Ms. Ann Gerace**  
CCI Center

**Ms. Tanya Moximchalk**  
Direct Energy  
Business

**Mr. Andrew Butcher**  
GTECH Strategies

**Ms. Lynne Glover**  
Visit Pittsburgh

**Ms. Joyce O'Connor**  
Cardinal Resources  
LLC

**Mr. William Cagney**  
International Union of  
Operating Engineers  
Local 95

**Mr. Jon Mathews**  
Fairmont Hotel

**Mr. Peter Johnson**  
Allegheny Design  
Group

**Ms. Carolyn Pengidore**  
Clear Choice Energy

**Mr. David Deal**  
evolve environment::  
architecture

**Mr. Tommy Johnson**  
Consol Energy, Inc

**Mr. Seth Rice**  
Babst, Calland,  
Clements and Zomnir,  
P.C.

**Mr. Thomas Dingo**  
Bayer Technology  
Services

**Mr. Robert Jones**  
Dominion Peoples

**Ms. Catherine Sheane**  
Astorino

**Mr. David Diorio**  
La Prima Espresso

**Ms. Meg Kelly**  
Frontier Energy

**Mr. Nagaraj Sivasubramaniam**  
Palumbo\*Donahue  
Schools of Business,  
Duquesne University

**Ms. Janice Donatelli**  
ARTEMIS

**Ms. Bonny Kwolek**  
Pittsburgh Cultural  
Trust

**Ms. Lauren Ferrari**  
Constellation Energy

**Ms. Janet Lauer**  
3 Rivers Clean Energy

**Mr. Chris Steffy**  
American Institute of  
Chemical Engineers-  
Pittsburgh Section

**Ms. Rachel Filippini**  
Group Against Smog  
and Pollution (GASP)

**Mr. Greg Lok**  
Constellation Energy

**Ms. Christina French**  
Table Magazine

**Dr. Scott Matthews**  
Carnegie Mellon  
University

**Mr. Abe Taleb**  
TerraShift

## Contents

---

<b>1. Prior Meeting Summary (July 13, 2010)</b>	
1.1 Agenda .....	5
1.2 Meeting Summary .....	6
<b>2 Resources</b>	
2.1 Climate related Articles .....	8
<b>3 Meeting Schedule for 2010.....</b>	<b>14</b>

## 1. Prior Meeting Summary (July 13, 2010)

### 1.1 Agenda

Business Climate Coalition  
September 7, 2010  
8:30 AM– 10:00 AM

Location:  
George Room  
23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Regional Enterprise Tower  
425 Sixth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Continental Breakfast Provided

Facilitated by Matthew Mehalik and Jake Baechle, Sustainable Pittsburgh

- 8:30           Arrival & Check-in: Breakfast
- 8:40           Welcome
- Recap last meeting (7.13.10)
  - BCC Update
  - Legislation Update
- 8:50           Subcommittee Meetings
- The latest with Transportation Transformation
  - Progress on the Green Office Challenge
- 9:05           It's finally here! The BCC Focus Group Report
- Key findings
  - Committee actions
- 9:20           Benchmarking Climate Action Plans (Mike Blackhurst)
- Considerations for Climate Action Plan 2.0
  - Carbon workshops
- 9:40           Brainstorming & Discussion
- 9:55           Closing Remarks

## 1.2 Prior Meeting Summary

### I. Call to Order:

A. Matt Mehalik and Jake Baechle called to order the meeting for the Champions for Sustainability Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee

### II. Roll Call

A. Each attendee introduced themselves: name & organization

### III. Opening Issues:

A. Recap of last meeting (7.13.10)

B. Today's Agenda (9.7.10)

1. Introductions
2. Recap of last meeting (7.13.10)
3. BCC Update
4. Legislation Update
5. Focus Group Study (Postponed)
6. Benchmarking Climate Action Plans
7. Brainstorming and Discussing

### IV. Overview:

A. BCC Update

1. After the Climate Bill Failure
2. So Far the World's Hottest Year
3. National Top 50

Take Away Points: A significant climate bill will not be passed through the senate before elections in November. The first 6 months of 2010 are the hottest on record and even if the second half is unseasonably cool 2010 is likely to be one of the top 3 hottest years ever recorded. The EPA released a list of 50 national organizations that are using the most green energy and many Pennsylvania universities, businesses, and municipalities all make the list.

## B. Green Office Challenge

1. Funds
2. Overview Board
3. Constellation Energy
  - a) Data Entry
  - b) Print Shop
  - c) Comparison

## C. Transportation Transformation

1. 28 Commute
2. Sports Stars
3. Day

## D. Benchmarking Climate Action Plans (Mike Blackhurst)

1. The spectrum of Climate Action Plans
2. Measurability
3. Opportunities for Businesses
4. Opportunities for Pittsburgh

Take Away Points: Measurements are becoming more accurate. Standards are developing with legislation likely to follow. What actions reduce GHG emissions are not generally debated, the real question is which action reduces the most GHG emissions per dollar.

## V. Conclusion

## VI. Adjournment:

- A. Matthew Mehalik and Jake Baechle adjourned the meeting at 10 am
- B. Networking continued

**\*\*Handouts:**

- Agenda

Minutes submitted by: Jake Baechle

Minutes approved by: Matthew Mehalik

## 2. Resources

### 2.1 BCC Climate related articles as of 9.7.10

- **As the World Burns (10.5.10)** On April 20, 2010, Senators John Kerry, Lindsey Graham, and Joseph Lieberman, along with three aides, visited Rahm Emanuel, President Obama's chief of staff, at the White House. The legislators had spent seven months writing a comprehensive bill that promised to transform the nation's approach to energy and climate change, and they were planning a press conference in six days to unveil their work.

Kerry, of Massachusetts, Graham, of South Carolina, and Lieberman, of Connecticut, had become known on Capitol Hill as the Three Amigos, for the Steve Martin comedy in which three unemployed actors stumble their way into defending a Mexican village from an armed gang. All had powerful personal motivations to make the initiative work. Kerry, who has been a senator for twenty-five years and has a long record of launching major investigations, had never written a landmark law. Lieberman, an Independent who had endorsed John McCain for President, had deeply irritated his liberal colleagues by helping the Republicans weaken Obama's health-care bill. Graham, a Republican, had a reputation as a Senate maverick—but not one who actually got things done. This bill offered the chance for all three men to transform their reputations.

The senators had cobbled together an unusual coalition of environmentalists and industries to support a bill that would shift the economy away from carbon consumption and toward environmentally sound sources of energy. They had the support both of the major green groups and of the biggest polluters. No previous climate-change legislation had come so far. Now they needed the full support of the White House. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Austin, Pittsburgh, Seattle Receive Honors for GHG Reductions (9.30.10)** Twenty U.S. cities and counties have achieved significant milestones in reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA. Austin, TX; Pittsburgh, PA; and Seattle, WA were honored for moving through all five steps of the carbon reduction process outlined by ICLEI.

Since 1993, ICLEI USA has held 130 'Five Milestone' recognition events for local governments. Since then, more than 300 local governments have received recognition for their various Milestone accomplishments. Over the past year, the pace of Milestone attainment has accelerated, with 52 local governments completing one or more.

The Five Milestones process includes: 1) measuring GHG emissions, 2) setting realistic emissions reduction goals, 3) developing hands-on climate action plans, 4) implementing those plans, and 5) monitoring and evaluating progress. [Click here to read more.](#)

### **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

- **Bad economy tests voter support for land conservation (10.21.10)** Historically, Americans, regardless of political party, have voted overwhelmingly in favor of ballot measures that set aside money or land for conservation programs. This year, all that could change.

In what has shaped up to be a nasty midterm election, many observers are wondering if preservation will go out the window. And with all levels of government facing massive budget shortfalls, more states may follow Arizona, which this year is considering a ballot measure to redirect land conservation funding to more pressing needs.

On Nov. 2, voters in Arizona will decide whether to approve Proposition 301, which could drain up to \$124 million of voter-protected conservation funds.

Christopher Mann, an assistant professor at the University of Miami in Florida who has studied ballot initiatives, said the outcome of the measures in Arizona and around the country will send a signal to budget-writing legislators next year. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Biotech Company to Patent Fuel-Secreting Bacterium (9.14.10)** A biotech company plans to announce Tuesday that it has won a patent on a genetically altered bacterium that converts sunlight and carbon dioxide into ingredients of diesel fuel, a step that could provide a new pathway for making ethanol or a diesel replacement that skips several cumbersome and expensive steps in existing methods.

The bacterium's product, which it secretes like sweat, is a class of hydrocarbon molecules called alkanes that are chemically indistinguishable from the ones made in oil refineries. The organism can grow in bodies of water unfit for drinking or on land that is useless for farming, according to the company, Joule Unlimited of Cambridge, Mass.

“We make very clean, sulfur-free hydrocarbons that drop directly into the existing infrastructure for the production of diesel fuel,” said William J. Sims, the chief executive of Joule. The object, he said, was not to be an alternative for fossil fuels, but “to become a viable replacement.”

Joule said it was the first company to patent an organism that secretes hydrocarbon fuel made continuously, directly from sunlight. Other companies, including Amyris Biotechnologies of Emeryville, Calif., and LS9 of San Carlos, Calif., are working on organisms that will make fuel if fed sugar from corn or cellulosic sources, but Joule's bacterium does not require any sugar. Another company, Aurora Algae of Alameda, Calif., said Monday that it had developed an algae-based platform for production of fuel, pharmaceuticals and other valuable chemicals. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Fracking companies miss EPA deadline to provide info (10.25.10)** Hydraulic fracturing service companies have missed an initial deadline to send information to U.S. EPA about the chemicals and techniques they use, but the companies say they aren't withholding the data.

Instead, they say they need more time to comply with the agency's voluminous request and also are negotiating over which information will be withheld from the public.

## **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

EPA asked nine drilling service providers in early September what chemicals they put in their hydraulic fracturing fluid, as part of an agency study into whether fracturing could pollute drinking water. The agency said it wanted the information in 30 days.

The agency also is seeking information the companies have on the effects of the chemicals on human health and the environment, standard operating procedures at their fracturing sites and the locations where fracturing has been conducted. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **In Newark, Brown takes Prop. 23 jab at Whitman (9.23.10)** Republican gubernatorial nominee Meg Whitman said Thursday she'll vote against Proposition 23, next month's ballot measure that would roll back California's landmark greenhouse gas emissions law. That means both major-party gubernatorial candidates oppose it, perhaps dealing a mortal blow to a measure already struggling in the polls.

But Whitman's stance isn't enough, Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jerry Brown insisted during a stop at the Newark facility of PetersenDean, a Vacaville-based solar and roofing company. Whitman has said she wants to impose a one-year moratorium on implementation of the gas emissions law, Assembly Bill 32.

AB32, signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006, requires the California Air Resources Board to develop regulations and market mechanisms to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, a reduction of about 25 percent under business-as-usual estimates; mandatory caps will begin in 2012 for significant sources and ratchet down to meet the 2020 goals.

Prop. 23 -- funded in large part by several oil companies -- would suspend efforts to implement AB 32 until the state's unemployment rate -- now at 12.4 percent -- has dropped to 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive quarters.

Critics say that would put the law on hold almost indefinitely. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **China makes inroads on emissions (9.13.10)** When it comes to climbing China's bureaucratic ladder, closing factories to cut greenhouse gas emissions can be a career booster.

Huang Huikang, as vice mayor of Tangshan in northeastern China, made energy efficiency one of his top priorities, taking aggressive steps to curb greenhouse gases from the city's many factories. Today he is China's special representative on climate change, negotiating with officials from countries worldwide.

As Huang explains it, he and his colleagues managed - at least in one city - to meet the challenge of reducing emissions while still promoting rapid economic growth.

They did not simply shutter factories in Tangshan, a major steel- and cement-producing center, but replaced them with cleaner-burning plants. Of course making these changes by government fiat is easier in a country where officials do not face democratic elections.

### ***BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010***

"We shut down 1,500 highly-polluting factories," Huang said, adding that even as he did so the city's gross domestic product doubled twice in the past five years, to \$400 million. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **China Winning Renewable Energy Race (9.22.10)** Five miles off the coast of Shanghai, the Chinese recently completed the country's first offshore wind farm.

The project was completed before construction on the first American offshore wind farm has even begun.

The Shanghai project is not just another wind farm. It's the next generation in wind power technology and the latest example of how China is jumping ahead of the United States. Earlier this month, the accounting firm Ernst & Young named China the most attractive place to invest in renewables, knocking the United States out of the top position.

The study ranked countries on such things as regulatory risk, access to finance, grid connection and tax climate. It cited the lack of a clear policy promoting demand for renewables in the United States -- a product of Congress' failure to pass an energy bill -- as one of the main factors for the dethroning.

China has already surpassed the United States in the amount of wind turbines and solar panels that it makes. China is also gaining on the United States when it comes to how much of their energy comes from renewable energy sources. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **First-in-the-nation statewide sprawl rule clears Calif. air board (09/24/2010)** California regulators yesterday voted for a tough anti-sprawl rule that seeks to trim greenhouse gas emissions throughout the state by setting regional restrictions for transportation and land use to be applied by urban planning agencies.

The rule, as adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB), directs the 18 metropolitan agencies in charge of planning in California to work emissions cuts into urban blueprints as required under a law passed by the California Legislature in 2008, S.B. 375.

The agency set the cuts under pressure from some construction companies, builders, San Joaquin Valley officials and development interests that wanted lighter targets to account for economic uncertainty and historically bad air pollution in the valley. But ARB officials said the first-of-its-kind program is crucial to help meet the carbon cuts outlined in the state's climate law, A.B. 32, through reduced vehicle miles traveled and a movement toward denser, more livable communities.

Seeking a compromise with those opposed, ARB chief Mary Nichols yesterday pushed through a final rule that calls for different percentage reductions in per capita emissions by the years 2020 and 2035 for different regions. It passed the air board unanimously. [Click here to read more.](#)

## **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

- **Gates, Google throw weight behind 'No on 23' (10.21.10)** Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates has donated \$700,000 to help defeat a proposition that would suspend California's climate change law.

Gates is the latest technology billionaire to contribute to the "No on 23" campaign. Last week, Google Inc. co-founder Sergey Brin donated \$200,000 and Intel Corp. co-founder Gordon Moore gave \$1 million.

This brings the total "No on 23" campaign donations to \$27 million, compared with \$9 million raised by proposition supporters from two Texas oil refineries and Koch Industries Inc.

Prop 23 calls for the suspension of the state's 2006 law to curb greenhouse gas emissions until unemployment drops below 5.5 percent for a year, a highly unlikely threshold

- **Happy Birthday Clean(er) Air: We Still Have a Long Way to Go (9.21.10)** The [Clean Air Act](#) turns 40 this month. But if dirty energy proponents and climate-change deniers have their way, it won't survive intact for another 40 weeks.

Ever since the US Supreme Court agreed that the EPA has the right to regulate greenhouse gasses under the act, lobbyists for dirty energy have been trying to gut the law.

Americans can't let that happen. Promoters of dirty air have been vilifying this law since it was just a notion in a congressional subcommittee, four decades ago. They carry on with the exact same fear-mongering today. They keep peddling the same old falsehoods: enforcing the Clean Air Act is a job killer, bad for industry, certain to ruin the economy, etc.

In 1970 they said it would "cause entire industries to collapse," and in 1980 they said it would cause "a quiet death for business across the country."

It is really kind of sad. You would think that -- after four decades -- they could come up with some new talking points. But no: It is always the same stuff.

Unfortunately for them, we now have the benefit of 40 years of hindsight. And even the most casual review of the facts shows how demonstrably wrong the defenders of dirty air and dirty energy have been -- time and time, again. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **How One Small Business Cut Energy Use and Costs (10.7.10)** Would enlisting millions of small companies in a national response to climate change be worth the effort? Their prominence in political rhetoric suggests that it might. Small business owners are attractive political icons - entrepreneurs personify American ideals of free enterprise, innovation and self-reliance. But their individual contributions to greenhouse gas emissions are small, and in practice, getting millions of entrepreneurs to agree about anything is like herding cats; we are a diverse, independent, and competitive group. This leaves the value of a small business response to climate change unclear.

Actual evidence is scarce. New technologies and LEED-certified buildings dominate the news, but the majority of small companies are neither clean-tech start-ups, nor likely to build new

## **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

facilities. Experiments with my own company, which fits this common profile, suggest that we can reduce greenhouse-gas emissions rapidly and cost-effectively, and that some of the barriers to action are misunderstood.

I own a design firm, and my work on climate change exhibitions for the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences and the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography earned me the nickname "the closet climatologist" and provided an education about the potential consequences of unchecked global warming. These experiences engendered a sense of urgency about finding practical ways to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Like many Americans, I felt compelled to act and, because I am a business owner, I had the opportunity to try. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Markey open to smaller energy bill (9.23.10)** Rep. Ed Markey expressed openness Thursday to a last-minute compromise on energy legislation this year even as he lashed out at Senate Republican leaders for blocking action on a comprehensive global warming bill.

"I think their agenda over there is held hostage by Kentucky coal and Oklahoma oil," the Massachusetts Democrat said during a panel discussion hosted by the Washington Post.

Markey led House Democrats in writing the big climate and energy bill that narrowly passed in June 2009. But the proposal has languished ever since and Senate Democratic leaders have shelved the cap-and-trade components for good.

A last-ditch bipartisan Senate push is underway to move a more limited package of renewable electricity mandates and incentives for electric vehicles and home efficiency improvements.

All three of those items were included in the House global warming bill, Markey noted, indicating he's willing to accept the smaller version. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Midterm Candidates Embrace Climate Denialism (9.13.10)** Despite overwhelming scientific evidence that human activities are warming Earth's climate and causing a range of harmful effects, climate science denialism is enjoying a dramatic resurgence in American political life. More candidates who simply do not believe Earth's climate is warming, or who hold the view that humans are not the primary cause of recent warming, may be elected this year than in any other election in recent memory.

The large number of viable candidates in the upcoming midterm elections who disagree with the conclusions of the vast majority of climate scientists deserves some discussion here, since denying the reality of manmade climate change is also a scientific issue, not just a political matter. The bottom line is that denying that manmade climate change is taking place won't make the problem go away. In all likelihood it will only make it worse, as greenhouse gas concentrations increase even further, locking in additional warming for decades to come.

From a political standpoint, portraying yourself as an ardent skeptic of the scientific establishment may be a wise move in a year in which voters seem to have a deep distrust of elites

### **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

in general. But a comparison of some of the candidates' statements with the scientific literature demonstrates that there is virtually no scientific support to back up many of their claims. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **New map shows measuring carbon in Amazon is feasible (09/14/2010)** Calculating how many acres of Amazon forest are cleared each year is relatively easy thanks to satellite imaging. Determining how much carbon is stored in that forest is another matter.

Unlike forest cover, carbon cannot be seen from satellites in space. Scientists have to physically measure tree trunks in order to calculate how much of the greenhouse gas is stored in their woody limbs and green leaves.

Measuring every tree on the planet is clearly impractical, and this has posed a challenge for those seeking to establish financial incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation, such as the United Nations' Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) program. The carbon released when trees are cut down is estimated to contribute 10 to 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

For years, scientists and policymakers have questioned whether it is possible to cost-effectively measure forest carbon with high enough precision to make REDD programs viable.

Ecologist Greg Asner and his partners have found a way to do just that. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Pittsburgh 1 of Only 18 U.S. Municipalities to Reach “ICLEI Milestone 5” Sustainability Goal (10.25.10)** In recognition of its continual work to measure and reduce greenhouse gases, Pittsburgh has received a “Milestone Five” Award from *ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability*. In ICLEI’s Five Milestone program, local governments commit to inventory greenhouse emissions, set realistic reduction goals, develop and implement hands-on climate action plans that yield results, and measure the impacts of their actions. Pittsburgh is one of only 18 municipalities nationwide to receive this recognition.

Pittsburgh achieved the ICLEI Milestone 5 recognition for updating its greenhouse gas inventory, which measures emissions generated by residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and solid waste processes within Pittsburgh city limits, along with City government operations. In 2008, Pittsburgh’s greenhouse gas emissions totaled 6.8 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), 3% of which comes from City government operations. Compared to similar cities, Pittsburgh’s commercial sector produces a higher proportion of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions, implying that energy conservation opportunities in Pittsburgh’s commercial sector are substantial. The *2008 Pittsburgh Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory* is available online at [www.pittsburghclimate.org/resources.htm](http://www.pittsburghclimate.org/resources.htm) or upon request from the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative.

- **Pittsburgh sells itself as laboratory for U.S. energy solutions (09/24/2010)** On the one-year anniversary of the world's eye turning to Pittsburgh for the G-20 Summit, the city is aiming to remain in the spotlight as a leader in the "portfolio" of resources that America's energy solution requires, say city officials.

## **BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010**

"We firmly believe that the answers to the big questions around energy, if they're going to be found in the United States, we have a great opportunity to make sure they're going to be found in the city of Pittsburgh," Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said in a roundtable held yesterday in Washington, D.C.

The city is running the gamut of energy options in this portfolio while working to maintain its position as a green hub. It is pursuing strong production in more traditional energy areas, like the natural gas located in the Marcellus Shale, but also positioning itself to be a leader in carbon capture and storage if and when that technology becomes mainstream.

The energy industry contributes \$13.7 billion a year to the Pittsburgh regional gross domestic product, accounts for 10 percent of the city's economy and supports 105,000 jobs and growing, according to city officials. For example, the nuclear energy sector of Westinghouse Electric Corp. has added 5,000 jobs in the past four years and plans to continue hiring. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Project Aims to Turn Commuter Trains Wasted Energy into Cash (9.13.10)** Sparks fly and steel beams shake as electrified trains stop and go at Huntingdon Station on Market-Frankford, the city's busiest subway line. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) nearby Letterly substation is able to capture about half of braking trains' kinetic energy to power outbound ones. The timing has to be just right, such as when a train is approaching the powder-blue, elevated platform from the other direction.

If only we could catch and release it all, at will, engineers have mused often. They are about to get their wish.

The Philadelphia-area startup Viridity Energy Inc. will use a \$900,000 state grant to augment SEPTA's regenerative braking system with a device capable of storing up to 1.5 megawatts. Engineers are mulling everything from lithium-ion batteries to flywheels -- discs that maintain kinetic energy by spinning -- to store electricity in the bowels of the more than 80-year-old Letterly substation. [Click here to read more.](#)

- **Release of divisive EPA ozone regs seen as unlikely before election (10.21.10)** With Election Day less than two weeks away and Republicans rallying around their opposition to U.S. EPA regulations, the agency is expected to wait before it tightens the nationwide limit on ozone pollution.

At issue is the Obama administration's revision of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, which is linked to breathing problems and heart disease. Ever since EPA proposed tightening the George W. Bush-era standards in January, the issue has become a pillar of Republican opposition to the Obama administration's environmental agenda.

Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, the top Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, recently listed the ozone review as proof of President Obama's "anti-industrial policy." The proposed rule was also featured prominently last week when the top Republicans on

### ***BCC Steering Committee Meeting, November 2, 2010***

the House Energy and Commerce Committee released a list of the costliest new regulations being issued under the Clean Air Act.

Two months after pushing back the release of a final rule, which was originally due in August, the Obama administration now appears likely to again extend its plan to reconsider the Bush-era regulations.

### **Meeting Schedule for 2010:**

- Meetings occur every 8 weeks.
- Schedule
  - ~~March 23~~
  - ~~May 18~~
  - ~~July 13~~
  - ~~Sept. 7~~
  - Nov. 2
- Meetings for 2011 will be scheduled early next year.