



*Champions for Sustainability
Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee*

Vol. 3 No. 1
March 2011

**BCC
Steering Committee
Update
Briefing
Meeting Date:
March 30, 2011**

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

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BCC Steering Committee Meeting, March 30, 2011

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

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.
Board Member
Sustainable Pittsburgh

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 MaterialScience
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 March 30, 2011, as well as a summary of notes from the Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee meeting from November 2, 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
- Sustainable Pittsburgh 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

Members of the 2011 Business Climate Coalition Steering Committee:

Mr. Steve Bland
Port Authority of
Allegheny County

Mr. John Burke
URA

Mr. William Cagney
International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local 95

Mr. David Deal
evolve environment::
architecture

Mr. Tom Dingo
Bayer Businesses and
Technologies

Ms. Janice Donatelli
ARTEMIS

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

Mr. JD Fogarty
Port of Pittsburgh
Commission

Ms. Christina French
Table Magazine

Ms. Lynne Glover
Visit Pittsburgh

Mr. Robert Jones
Dominion Peoples

Ms. Bonny Kwolek
Pittsburgh Cultural
Trust

Mr. Greg Lok
Constellation Energy

Dr. Scott Matthews
Carnegie Mellon
University

Ms. Irene McGee
Bayer Materials
Science LLC

Ms. Christine Mondor
evolve environment::
architecture

Ms. Joyce O'Connor
Cardinal Resources
LLC

**Ms. Carolyn
Pengidore**
Clear Choice Energy

Ms. Catherine Sheane
Astorino

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

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

Ms. Wendy Stern
Port Authority of
Allegheny County

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1. Prior Meeting Summary (November 2, 2010)

1.1 Agenda

Business Climate Coalition
November 2, 2010
8:30 AM– 10:00 AM

Location:
George Room
23rd 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 (9.7.10)
 - BCC Update
- 8:50 Bike PGH (Lou)
- Bike Friendly Employers program
- 9:10 Subcommittee Meetings
- Status update on Events
 - Goals subcommittee meeting recap
- 9:20 Goals for the Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan 2.0
- Update
 - Discussion
 - Brainstorming
 - Voting
- 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. Opening Issues:

A. Recap of last meeting (9.7.10)

B. Today's Agenda (11.2.10)

1. Introductions
2. Recap of last meeting (9.7.10)
3. BCC Update
4. Bike Friendly Business (Bike PGH)
5. Goals for Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan
6. Next Steps

III. Overview:

A. BCC Update

1. As the World Burns
2. First-in-Nation Anti-Sprawl Rule
3. How One Small Business Cut Carbon

Take Away Points: For over a year there have been discussions of a climate bill. Recently major climate legislation has been declared dead. "As the World Burns" explains what has been happening in the senate during the course of the year and what prevented the passing of a major climate bill.

California is set to be the first state to implement an anti-sprawl rule as long as Prop 23 does not pass. This rule will help the state reduce its carbon emissions and set growth boundaries. If successful rules like this may begin appearing in other states across the country.

"How One Small Business Cut Carbon" explains how a small business was able to drastically cut its carbon footprint by reinvesting the savings from efficiencies implemented.

B. Bike Friendly Businesses (Lou Fineberg)

1. Workplace Culture
2. The 4 E's
 - a) Engineering
 - b) Encouragement
 - c) Education
 - d) Evaluation
3. Questionnaire
4. Membership
5. Bicycle Action Plan
6. Products & Services
 - a) Bike Action Plan
 - b) Parts & accessories
 - c) Commuting forums
 - d) Racks
 - e) Maps & guides
 - f) Bike Valet
 - g) Refurbished bikes

Take Away Points: Bike Friendly Businesses are crucial to making a city bike friendly. People are beginning to look at the bike-friendliness of cities when determining where they would like to live and work. Currently leading cities have 20-30 bike friendly businesses. Pittsburgh is making great strides to make the city more bike friendly but currently only has 2 bike friendly businesses.

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C. Subcommittee Meeting Recap

1. Grant status report

D. Goal setting for Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan 2.0

1. Brainstorming

a) Short Term 2012

Rank	Goal	Votes
1	100+ Businesses registered for Green Office Challenge w/ measurable results of energy reduction and employee behavior change + corporate sponsor support.	5
1	Create a model for energy efficiency in small/mid-sized business in a neighborhood business district.	5
3	Hold seminar on what small businesses can do to become more green	4
4	Double Local Business/Corporation Participation in BCC	2
5	Partner with the City to provide funding resources and/or a clearinghouse for resources	1
	Establish ranked action companies should be taking and get those out to businesses – use items from the focus groups <u>Measurement:</u> Green Office Challenge	
	Engage more small businesses in BCC activities <u>Measurement:</u> Recruit 5 small businesses to BCC Committee	
	Possibility of looking at small businesses within neighborhoods as a collective <u>Measurement:</u> Transportation & Energy Usage	
	Increase participation of businesses in BCC initiatives <u>Measurement:</u> # of entities conducting GHG inventories and # of entities participating in BCC events	
	Identify key business organizations to promote BCC. <u>Measurement:</u> Enroll 25 Chambers of Commerce	
	Use tax assessor’s database to identify and target largest commercial buildings	
	Establish a sustainable purchasing policy (Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy)	
	BCC “advertise” Green Accomplishments of 25 Small Businesses	

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b) Long Term 2015

Rank	Goal	Votes
1	Reduce water consumption by 20%. <u>Measurement:</u> Portfolio Manager.	3
2	Increased funding and incentives to offset technical upgrades for businesses. <u>Measurement:</u> New city tax credits and publicity support from the City.	2
3	Establish an energy savings challenge, piggybacking on the Retrofit Ramp-Up proposal to reduce electricity demand by 100million kWh. Coordinate resources through the BCC.	1
3	Guide and influence public policy decision on climate. <u>Measurement:</u> Develop mechanism to monitor key legislation.	1
	Need to look at long term goal – is it feasible to meet the reduction goal? Track our progress around 2011/12.	
	Increase employee bike commuters to 2% at all businesses. <u>Measurement:</u> Commuter survey, citywide.	
	Minimize need for parking spaces, to be replaced by green space. (ie trees). Increase biking, river transit, walking.	
	Set and achieve reduction targets, measured by: number of entities publishing a second inventory and meeting their goals, and number of entities show-cased as exemplars in BCC events.	
	25% of businesses in Pittsburgh join the BCC.	
	25% of commercial landlords to an energy audit.	
	Reduce electricity use by 20% at 25% of commercial buildings.	
	Establish a group of retired energy experts to advise small businesses on energy savings.	
	Partner with local universities to support BCC formally through student involvement/commitment.	

2. Discussion
3. Voting
4. Review of draft

Take Away Points: All suggested goals will be considered along with any comments or suggestions submitted to Jake via email. A final draft will be developed by Jake and Miriam and sent to the BCC for their edits and approval.

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E. Next Steps

1. Leadership in Managing Businesses Energy Footprint
 - a) December 7th
 - b) Phipps Conservatory
 - c) More information to come
2. Go Vote!
3. Have a great winter!

F. Recognition given to SCA Fellows

IV. Conclusion

V. Adjournment:

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

****Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Slides
- Draft of Business Goals

Minutes submitted by: Jake Baechle

Minutes approved by: Matthew Mehalik

• Resources

2.1 BCC Climate related articles as of 3.29.11

- **Poll: Voters trust EPA over Congress (3.28.11)** Almost two-thirds of voters in three presidential battleground states — Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania — want the Environmental Protection Agency to set greenhouse gas standards for industrial facilities, according to a green group's poll released ahead of Senate votes on whether to strip EPA's authority.

The poll released Monday was commissioned by the League of Conservation Voters and is part of a wider political battle over climate rules — one that's perilous for Democrats facing potentially tough reelection battles next year in those states and others. "Three in five (63%) voters in the three Midwestern states say they trust the EPA more than Congress to decide whether there should be new standards for carbon pollution," states a summary of the poll, conducted by Hart Research

Associates.

It notes that roughly the same percentage — 64 percent — support EPA setting new standards that limit carbon pollution from power plants and other industrial facilities. [Click here to read more](#)

- **New EPA proposals would reduce coal plants' mercury emissions (3.21.11)** The teenaged girl had become withdrawn, her grades worsened and the family was worried. Her mother took her to several doctors before a test finally revealed the problem. Her blood contained a level of mercury several times what it should be. The family frequently ate fish for its perceived health benefits, but were unaware it is also a common source of mercury, said Robert Laumbach, the doctor who treated the girl last week.

The mercury, he said, is directly attributable to the country's coal-fired power plants, which have historically had no regulations on how much mercury they pump into the air, all of which eventually ends up in water, then fish, and then humans, Laumbach said.

"We all have mercury in our bodies from the emissions from power plants," said Laumbach, an assistant professor at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute in Piscataway.

Those coal-fired power plants may soon have to cut back their emissions, after the Environmental Protection Agency last week unveiled the first-ever national standards for mercury, arsenic and other toxic air pollutants. Under the proposed regulations, mercury emissions would be reduced by 91 percent, according to the EPA, which estimates the new rules could prevent 17,000 premature deaths per year nationwide, as well as thousands of illnesses, like heart attacks and asthma. [Click here to read more](#)

- **PA citizens have constitutional right to clean air, pure water (3.21.11)** JOHNSTOWN — "We have met the enemy and they is us," said the comic character Pogo.

Both political parties sponsored candidates for governor who accepted campaign money from the gas drilling industry – an industry they would be required to regulate if elected.

The Republican candidate, Tom Corbett, received more than \$1 million from 15 or more gas drillers and was elected. He then appointed an owner of a drilling company to head his transition team and has appointed his own man as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection.

He has said he intends to reopen state forests and parks to more gas drilling, reversing the decision of his predecessor. The DEP's website says that the department wants to be a "partner" with those it regulates. (Imagine an IRS examiner telling a taxpayer he wants to be a "partner," or the building inspector telling the building contractor, whose work he inspects, that he wants to be a "partner.")

[Click here to read more](#)

- **The week ahead: Senate to vote on proposal to block EPA climate rules (3.28.11)** While House Republicans have garnered most of the attention when it comes to blocking EPA climate regulations, all eyes will turn to the Senate this week.

Three amendments that would limit the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate

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greenhouse gas emissions are expected to come up on the Senate floor this week during consideration of small business legislation.

Democrats are planning to first hold a vote on a less stringent amendment offered by Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) that would exempt agriculture from EPA's climate rules.

At a leadership meeting Monday, top lawmakers will then determine when two other amendments will be considered, including a Republican proposal to permanently eliminate EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources like power plants and refineries. [Click here to read more](#)

- **EPA pursuit of cleaner air is under attack (3.25.11)** Though the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is under attack from majority Republicans in Congress and a number of powerful industries nationwide, you would never know it, as the agency continues to try to reduce pollutants that endanger our health.

Critics have sought to portray the agency as having a political agenda, even plotting to destroy American businesses, when a sober observation of the agency's activities shows only an entity committed to fulfilling the requirements set out for it in the Clear Air Act — passed by Congress in 1970 and enacted by Republican President Richard Nixon, amended in 1990 and signed by Republican President George H.W. Bush.

What has made the agency so reviled? In January, the EPA proposed stricter health standards for smog, also known as ground-level ozone. Smog forms when emissions from factories, power plants, landfills and automobiles react in the sun. Last week, the agency proposed rules that would for the first time limit emissions of mercury, arsenic and other pollutants from coal-fired power plants. [Click here to read more](#)

- **GEF Grant to Help Boost Energy Efficiency in Three Chinese Provinces (3.22.11)** Today the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a grant of \$13.4 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the People's Republic of China to improve quality and sustainability of energy efficiency programs in Shandong, Shanxi and Jiangxi provinces. Technical assistance and capacity building activities will be financed by the GEF grant.

China is making unprecedented efforts to improve energy efficiency, and launched an ambitious set of energy conservation policies, regulations and programs during the 11th Five Year Plan (2006-2010). The 12th Five Year Plan (2011-2015) that has been just announced lays out a path for continued efforts in energy conservation. Provincial governments play a critical role in implementation of the country's energy conservation drive, because this is the government level that interfaces with large consumers, consolidates resources for specific activities, and organizes implementation on the ground. During the 12th Five-Year Plan, the provinces are faced with the challenge to accelerate delivery of energy efficiency through the timely but effective design and implementation of huge, largely new, comprehensive energy conservation programs. However, local human and financial capacities need strengthening to meet the challenge. [Click here to read more](#)

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- **Now, Starter Homes Boast Solar Arrays (3.24.11)** Among the standard features offered for new homes at Manzanita at Paseo del Sol, a [KB Home](#) development in a desert suburb southeast of Los Angeles, are nine-foot ceilings, six-panel doors and a 1.4-kilowatt solar array.

While KB Home has offered rooftop photovoltaic panels as an option for some time, the home builder now will make solar arrays from [SunPower](#) standard equipment on more than 800 homes in 10 communities being built in Southern California.

“This is a game changer for our industry and a powerful way for us to compete in the marketplace, especially with resale homes,” Craig LeMessurier, KB Home’s director of corporate communications, said in an e-mail. While pricey solar panels are often found on the roofs of high-end houses, it’s notable that KB Home is installing the arrays on homes with base selling prices that range from \$250,000 to \$360,000. In California, that’s starter home territory. [Click here to read more](#)

- **Amid rising gas prices, President Obama calls for long-term energy strategy (3.11.11)** President Obama called Friday for a "comprehensive energy strategy" in which the administration continues to develop the country’s oil and gas resources in the short term, but begins to wean the country off oil in the coming decades.

“We need to increase our access to secure energy supplies in the near term and we've got to make our economy more energy-efficient and energy-independent over the long run,” Obama said at a White House press conference Friday.

Obama’s remarks come as rising oil-and-gas prices are becoming a hot-button political issue. In Washington, concerns about energy prices are reaching fever pitch, with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle calling for measures to address the issue. [Click here to read more](#)

- **White House says Obama won’t back off nuclear energy (3.14.11)** President Obama continues to believe that nuclear energy is key to U.S. energy policy even as uncertainty and fear grip Japan, where plants were damaged during last week’s earthquake and tsunami.

Senior Obama administration officials said Monday that Obama remains committed to nuclear power, and that U.S. nuclear plants had been built to withstand the strain of strong storms and earthquakes.

In a briefing at the White House, press secretary Jay Carney said that information is still coming in on the status of the damaged nuclear plants in Japan, but for now Obama is committed to keeping nuclear energy in the U.S. portfolio. [Click here to read more](#)

- **EPA proposes ‘first ever’ emissions standards for power plants (3.17.11)** The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) released [a plan Wednesday that would reduce emissions](#) of mercury and other toxins from coal-burning power plants, drawing praise from health officials and condemnation from some industry representatives and lawmakers.

EPA Administrator [Lisa P. Jackson](#) said the "first ever" national standard for harmful power plant emissions "was 20 years in the making" and was required by the [1990 Clean Air Act](#). The plan

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would force plants to purchase scrubbers and other equipment to prevent 91 percent of mercury from coal from being released into the air.

"Today we're taking an important step forward to protect the health of millions of Americans," Jackson said in an address at the agency's headquarters. She repeated the EPA's position that controlling pollution prevents thousands of premature deaths as well as childhood asthma. [Click here to read more](#)

- **House Republicans reject climate change science (3.16.11)** All 31 Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee declined on Tuesday to vote in favor of a series of amendments acknowledging the scientific consensus around climate change.

The three amendments were attached to a bill aiming to curb the Environmental Protection Agency's power to regulate greenhouse gasses. They [posited](#) that "Congress accepts the scientific finding ... that 'warming of the climate system is unequivocal'"; that the scientific evidence regarding climate change "is compelling"; and that "human-caused climate change is a threat to public health and welfare."

The committee [passed the measure](#), but voted down the amendments, with 30 of the 31 Republicans voting against them and one - Marsha Blackburn, of Tennessee - declining to vote either way. Democrats unanimously voted in favor of the amendments.

Republicans, who have strongly opposed Obama administration efforts to regulate greenhouse gasses, have been pushing to strip the EPA of its regulatory power. The party blocked Democratic efforts last year to pass climate change legislation. [Click here to read more](#)

Meeting Schedule for 2011:

- Meetings occur every 10-12 weeks.
- Schedule
 - ~~March 30~~
 - June 8
 - August 17
 - October 19
 - December 7