



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET December 2011

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases Philadelphia's Sustainability programs.

The Brookings Institute ranked Philadelphia as the 5th largest clean economy of the nation's 100 largest metros, even beating out San Francisco at #6. Mayor Michael Nutter pledged in his January 2008 inaugural address, to make Philadelphia the number one green city in America. To make good on his pledge, he created the [Mayor's Office of Sustainability](#) (MOS). This office is an active office at the forefront of all of the city's efforts, working with all city departments and the community.

The city then created a Plan, follows the plan, measures results, reassesses, updates, and then again follows the plan. The MOS [Greenworks](#) is the city's progress plan focuses on 14 target areas, which are reported on each spring. Two years into the plan, the city has achieved an average of 44% of its total targeted goals.

The city's [Green City, Clean Waters program](#) is Philadelphia's 25-year plan to protect and enhance watersheds by managing storm water with innovative green infrastructure. This will protect and enhance the region's waterways by managing storm water runoff to significantly reduce reliance on construction of additional underground infrastructure. In effect, investing in green storm water infrastructure solutions to reseed what are currently our impervious watershed hardscapes.

Another program announced in December of 2010, [Green 2015](#), is a bold plan to transform 500 acres of empty or underused land into publicly accessible green space in neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia over the next five years.

Philadelphia has put out a big welcome mat to green and sustainable businesses to make their home in the region. Companies such as the [Mark Group](#) a UK based home energy retrofit company, chose its US location to be in Philadelphia. The Mark Group looked at many cities before selecting Philadelphia and selected Philadelphia based on the strong energy efficiency policy in Pennsylvania, the housing stock, and the location.

According to the Dept. of Labor's [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), car ownership costs are the second largest household expense in the U.S. with an average cost of \$10,000/yr. Philadelphia's walkability, car-sharing programs, bike lanes and mass transit easily allow one to live car-less. A smart combination of fun, affordability, central location, access to medical care and top-notch higher education, livability and a commitment to sustainability, Philadelphia is positioned to be the greenest city in the US for many years to come.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at gardella@buffalo.edu or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at dsutton@city-buffalo.com.

BEMC members are willing to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets the third Wednesday of every month, 8:00 AM, 901 City Hall. The BEMC web site address is:
http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental_Management_Commission