

SUSTAINABILITY BOOKS FOR KIDS pg. 11 / GUIDE TO PHILLY RECYCLING pg. 39

# Greenworks

PHILADELPHIA

a year in review [www.phila.gov/green](http://www.phila.gov/green)







# Greenworks at a Glance

*Catching You Up on Philadelphia's Sustainability Plan*

Greenworks is Philadelphia's sustainability plan. In 2016 the Office of Sustainability (OOS) published *Greenworks: A Vision for a Sustainable Philadelphia*, the first major update to the plan since it launched in 2009. The 2016 plan sets eight long-term visions for a sustainable Philadelphia for all:



ACCESSIBLE FOOD AND DRINKING WATER



HEALTHY OUTDOOR AND INDOOR AIR



CLEAN AND EFFICIENT ENERGY



CLIMATE PREPARED AND CARBON NEUTRAL COMMUNITIES



QUALITY NATURAL RESOURCES



ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, AND SAFE TRANSPORTATION



ZERO WASTE



ENGAGED STUDENTS, STEWARDS, AND WORKERS

2018 marks more than a year of progress on the new Greenworks, and the ten-year anniversary of the creation of the Office of Sustainability. OOS is celebrating these occasions with several Greenworks updates.

## IN YOUR HAND

### **Greenworks: A Year in Review**

This magazine highlights Philadelphia residents and community groups working together to improve their neighborhoods for today and tomorrow. It also includes resources for individuals and communities to help achieve the Greenworks visions.

## FURTHER READING

To learn more about Philadelphia's progress toward the Greenworks visions, visit our website at **www.phila.gov/green**, where you'll find the following information:

**phila.gov/green**, where you'll find the following information:

- **Greenworks Initiatives Update**

*Greenworks: A Vision for a Sustainable Philadelphia* set out actions for OOS and other City departments to help achieve each of the eight visions. To learn about the progress on those actions and new commitments from the City of Philadelphia to advance Greenworks, check out the 2017 Greenworks Initiatives Update.

- **Greenworks Dashboard**

OOS publishes data on achieving each of the eight Greenworks visions on the Greenworks Dashboard.

- **Greenworks Equity Index**

This spring OOS will launch the Equity Index, a program to build relationships with communities not currently benefiting from sustainability, and improve outcomes for those Philadelphians.



## FROM THE MAYOR + DIRECTOR

February 2018

Dear Friends,

2017 was a challenging year. Another scorching summer (and fall!) meant the high number of residents with asthma, particularly children and people of color, were more likely to experience breathing problems. And the Trump Administration made several decisions that may exacerbate these challenges for Philadelphians. In particular, withdrawing from the historic Paris Climate Agreement makes our jobs protecting residents from the health and economic harm of climate change harder.

In the face of these challenges, Philadelphia is more committed than ever to being a healthy, clean, and sustainable city for all. Thanks to many partners, we've made significant progress that we can all be proud of.

For decades Philadelphians have been fighting litter, and we've nearly quadrupled the amount of waste we recycle instead of throwing away, but we can still create less waste and keep more litter off our streets. The City's new Zero Waste and Litter Plan sets strategies to help us achieve zero waste by 2035.

Have you noticed a new tree, park renovation, or rain garden in your neighborhood? Chances are it was installed as part of the Green City, Clean Waters program to better manage stormwater and keep it from polluting our rivers, all while beautifying our neighborhoods and creating local jobs.

As we envision a future where everyone efficiently uses clean energy they can afford, Philadelphia became the 100<sup>th</sup> city to sign the Mayors for Clean Energy pledge, committing Philadelphia to transition to 100% clean energy. The City is slashing energy use in our buildings, reducing costs and carbon pollution. Residents are getting in the game too—more than 180 residents signed up to put solar panels on their homes through Solarize Philly, with more to come in 2018.

People in every neighborhood are rolling up their sleeves and making a difference. PowerCorpsPHL members are learning new skills as they maintain our parks, trees, and rain gardens. Feed the Barrel participants keep used cooking oil out of the sewer by turning it into fuel. Indego bike share users have taken more than one million rides. And community gardeners are producing fresh food for their neighbors.

Everywhere you look, you'll find someone making a difference. 2017 taught us that even when we face challenges, Philadelphia's spirit and determination keep us on the path to becoming a truly sustainable city for all.

Thanks for all you do,



*James F. Kenney*

**James Kenney**

MAYOR



*Christine M. Knapp*

**Christine Knapp**

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

# Greenworks

PHILADELPHIA

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*The Office of Sustainability (OOS) works with partners around the City to improve quality of life in all Philadelphia neighborhoods, reduce the City's carbon emissions, and prepare Philadelphia for a hotter, wetter future. OOS is responsible for implementing Greenworks Philadelphia, the City's comprehensive sustainability plan.*

## CONNECT WITH US



[@greenworksphila](https://twitter.com/greenworksphila)

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Need a recycling bin or materials for your garden or yard? Want to dispose of something responsibly? Here's your guide to...

# PHILLY TRASH AND TREASURES



Organic Recycling Center



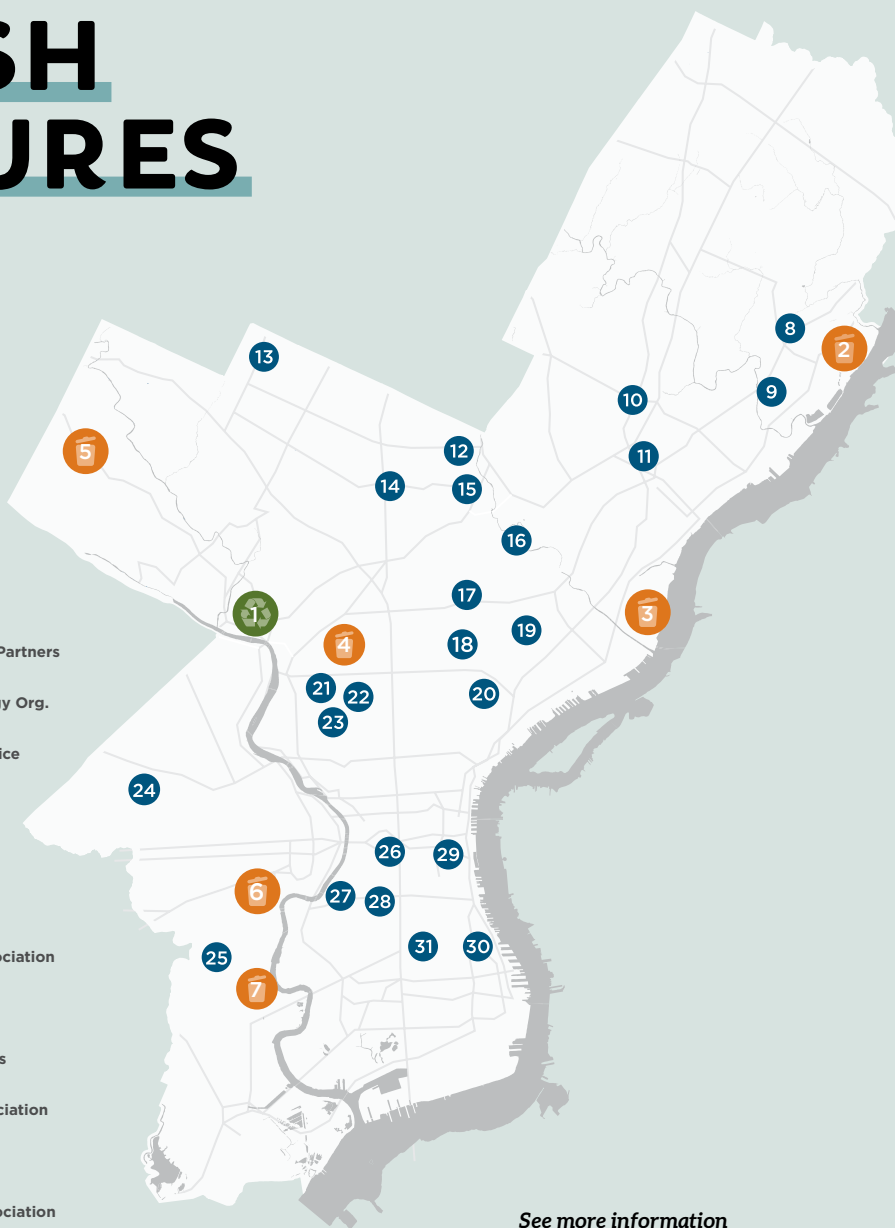
Sanitation Centers



Recycling Bin Pick Ups

1. **Organic Recycling Center**  
215-685-0108
2. **Northeast Philadelphia Sanitation Center**  
215-685-8070
3. **Port Richmond Sanitation Center**  
215-685-1358
4. **Strawberry Mansion Sanitation Center**  
215-685-3955
5. **Northwest Philadelphia Sanitation Center**  
215-685-2503
6. **West Philadelphia Sanitation Center**  
215-685-2600
7. **Southwest Philadelphia Sanitation Center**  
215-686-5560
8. **State Rep. Kevin Boyle's Office**  
215-331-2600
9. **Councilman Bobby Henon's Office**  
215-686-3444
10. **Sen. Christine Tartaglione's District Office**  
215-533-0440
11. **Frankford CDC**  
215-743-6580
12. **GPASS**  
215-456-1662
13. **Mt. Airy USA**  
215-844-6021
14. **Nicetown CDC**  
215-329-1824
15. **Esperanza**  
215-324-0746
16. **State Rep. Anjel Cruz's District Office**  
215-291-5643

17. **HACE**  
215-426-4990
18. **APM**  
215-235-6070
19. **New Kensington CDC**  
215-427-0350
20. **South Kensington Community Partners**  
215-427-3463
21. **Brewerytown CDC & Technology Org.**  
215-769-5228
22. **State Rep. Donna Bullock's Office**  
215-684-3738
23. **Fairmount CDC**  
215-232-4766
24. **ACHIEVEability**  
215-748-8800
25. **Southwest CDC**  
215-729-0800
26. **South of South Neighbors Association**  
215-732-8446
27. **Gray's Ferry Council**  
215-336-5005
28. **Diversified Community Services**  
215-336-5505
29. **Queen Village Neighbors Association**  
215-339-0975
30. **Whitman Council**  
215-468-4056
31. **Lower Moyamensing Civic Association**  
267-544-9597



See more information about how to recycle on page 39.

## FAIRMOUNT PARK ORGANIC RECYCLING CENTER

### PICK UP

Compost  
Mulch  
Manure

### DROP OFF

Leaves  
Grass Clippings  
Wood Chips  
Brush  
Herbivore Manure

## SANITATION CONVENIENCE CENTERS

*These six sanitation centers accept:*

Automotive tires  
Appliances  
Christmas trees  
Collectible rubbish  
Recyclable materials  
Mattresses and box springs (unwrapped)  
Yard waste in paper bags

Latex or water-based paint cans that are partially full can be solidified by adding an absorbent material such as kitty litter or newspaper prior to disposal  
E-waste, including computers, monitors, televisions, and other computer-related equipment

## RECYCLING BIN PICKUP LOCATIONS

Get a bin from any sanitation convenience center or from these community partners that offer neighborhood locations to pick up a bin.

For more information visit [www.philadelphiastreets.com](http://www.philadelphiastreets.com)



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DiBerardinis**

What's one sustainable thing **YOU** do?  
We want to know!

**#GreenworksPHL**



# Greenworks 2017 Year in Review



## The City of Philadelphia Is Planning for a Clean Energy Future

Philadelphians are already experiencing the impacts of climate change locally, and we know that those impacts will worsen in the years ahead. The Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement and proposal to rescind the Clean Power Plan are threats to the future of our city and our world, and they make local action on climate change more important.

That's why Mayor Kenney responded to the Trump Administration decisions with two new commitments for Philadelphia: that the City will work to uphold the goals of the Paris Agreement locally and work toward a 100% clean energy future as part of the Sierra Club's Mayors for Clean Energy coalition. Announcing these decisions, Mayor Kenney said, "Since the White House has opted to step away from its obligations to this issue, all cities—including Philadelphia—must step up."

Local leadership is critical to achieving these goals, and that begins with the City of Philadelphia. To demonstrate how the City will take action to reduce its carbon footprint, the Office of Sustainability (OOS) published the *Municipal Energy Master Plan* (EMP) this fall. The EMP provides a roadmap for reducing the causes of

climate change in the City's facilities by cutting energy use and costs, making operations more efficient, investing in renewable energy and advancing environmental stewardship. As part of the EMP, the City committed to new goals to cut carbon emissions 50% and procure 100% clean electricity by 2030.

But the City acting alone will not be sufficient to meet Philadelphia's climate goals. All levels of government must work with institutions, businesses, and local residents to ensure we transition to a clean energy future for all Philadelphians. This spring OOS will finalize *Powering Our Future: A Clean Energy Vision* for Philadelphia, which envisions a Philadelphia that achieves Mayor Kenney's goal of reducing carbon emissions 80% from 2006 levels by 2050 while emphasizing equity and health for all Philadelphians. *Powering Our Future* was developed with input from residents and issue experts citywide, and OOS will work with these groups in 2018 and beyond to work toward achieving this vision.

You can read both the *Municipal Energy Master Plan* and *Powering Our Future* on the OOS website at [www.phila.gov/green](http://www.phila.gov/green). 🌟



## WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABLE THING YOU DO?

**PETE ANGEVINE**, CEO, Little Baby's Ice Cream:

*"Little Baby's Ice Cream strives to be a responsible business, so we took the Best for PHL Challenge ([www.BestForPHL.com](http://www.BestForPHL.com)). That process helped us better understand how our business affects our employees, the environment, and the Philadelphia community. One improvement we made was to convert to 100% green, sustainable wind power. It was so easy and yet it makes such a big difference!"*



## Making Philadelphia Roads Safer, One Project at a Time

Philadelphia is home to transit riders, pedestrians, cyclists, and car drivers, and most of us fall into more than one category. Making our streets safe for all users is critical to achieving the City of Philadelphia's Vision Zero goal to eliminate fatal traffic crashes on Philadelphia streets by 2030. In 2017 several new initiatives helped pave the way for a Vision Zero future.

The Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Systems (oTIS) published the Vision Zero Three-Year Action Plan in September 2017, which outlines many strategies including the installation of a network of protected bike lanes. In a major step to achieving this vision, oTIS and the Streets Department launched the Chestnut Street Transportation Project, which includes pedestrian improvements and a parking-protected bicycle lane in West Philadelphia. These improvements help improve safety of all road users on a stretch of Chestnut Street between 33rd and 45th Street.

In North and Northeast Philadelphia, an even larger transportation safety initiative is taking shape. Roosevelt Boulevard is recognized as a dangerous corridor; over 10% of all traffic deaths in Philadelphia occur on the Boulevard. Thanks to a TIGER planning grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Route for Change Program is developing a series of improvements to create a more inviting corridor that is safe, accessible, and reliable for residents, visitors, employees, and commuters, including those who walk, wheel, transit, bicycle, and drive. Several Route for Change workshops were held for the public and other interested stakeholders in Fall 2017, with more engagement to come in 2018.

Public engagement will also be crucial to the success of the Wissahickon Gateway Project, which is re-imagining the area where the Schuylkill River and Wissahickon Creek meet with a focus on safer streets, better transit, and waterfront trails. The Philadelphia City Planning Commission has been meeting residents to solicit their feedback, and will announce more details at [www.phila2035.com](http://www.phila2035.com). 🌟

PHOTO BY MANAGING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS





# I HAVE A GREEN JOB

## Christopher Lewis

PARTNER & CHIEF OFFICER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, BLANK ROME LLP

Chris is a partner at Blank Rome LLP, a law firm headquartered in Philadelphia. Chris practices public utility law for energy companies as a member of the firm's nationally-recognized energy team.

A native Philadelphian, Chris is passionate about growing Philadelphia's clean energy economy. "It's important for us to achieve social equity for minority businesses and low-income communities that often are left out of economic and social development," Chris says.

Chris also chairs the Philadelphia Energy Authority, a municipal authority that has spearheaded the Philadelphia Energy Campaign and Solarize Philly, which promote solar power and energy efficiency in Philadelphia's neighborhoods. "I'm proud of these initiatives and the opportunity to bring together the private and public sectors to make Philadelphia better."



## Leading the Charge for an Electric Vehicle Future

Electric vehicles are increasingly common on Philadelphia's streets, and falling battery prices mean we can expect to see even more in the years ahead. To help prepare our city for these new vehicles, in 2017 the Kenney Administration and City Council created an Electric Vehicle Policy Task Force.

The Task Force is charged with suggesting policies to help make owning and charging an electric vehicle feasible for Philadelphia residents while also ensuring road access for transit, walking, and bicycling. The Task Force will make recommendations to City Council in early 2018.

As the Task Force analyzes possible citywide opportunities, the City's Office of Fleet Management (OFM) is leading by example. OFM procured 17 hybrid-electric vehicles for the Philadelphia Police Department, and is currently investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure at City facilities. The City is looking for funding to develop a Clean Fleet strategy that will help transition the City of Philadelphia's more than 6,000 sedans, trucks, and sanitation vehicles away from gasoline and diesel fuel. 🌟

## Businesses and Institutions Leading the Way: Philadelphia's First 2030 District

In October 2017 Philadelphia joined numerous cities around the United States inaugurating a 2030 District to help cut the carbon pollution causing climate change. The 2030 District is a public-private partnership that brings together property owners and managers, utilities and energy service companies, and community organizations to pledge to achieve a 50% reduction in energy and water usage and transportation emissions by the year 2030.

The Philadelphia 2030 District will be led by Green Building United, an independent non-profit dedicated to transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built, and operated. Some of the city's largest property owners and managers have already committed to this voluntary effort to reduce their environmental impacts and reduce costs.

Several organizations including the City of Philadelphia, SEPTA, Brandywine Realty Trust, and Drexel University, representing approximately 15 million square feet of building space, committed to joining Philadelphia 2030 District at launch. Property owners and managers for these partners will share strategies and best practices to help assess, track, and improve energy performance, water usage, and transportation emissions. To find out more about Philadelphia 2030 District visit: <http://bit.ly/2ygXyO1>. 🌟



## Community Composting Gets Competitive

Have you ever thought about how much of your trash is food waste? If you're like most Philadelphians, it's probably a lot. Food scraps make up 21% of what we send to landfills. This trash costs Philadelphia taxpayers money and makes climate change worse. To tackle food waste in Philadelphia, Philadelphia's Food Policy Advisory Council is leading a Compost System Design Competition.

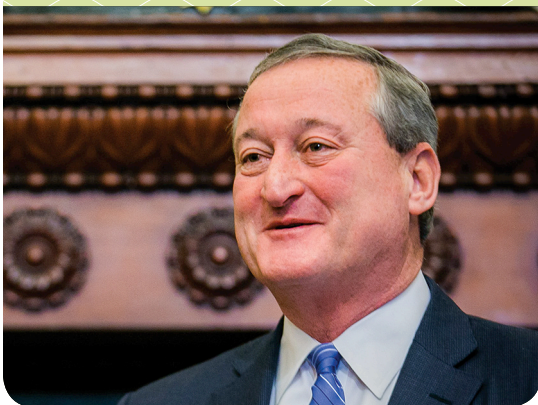
Compost is the nutrient-rich material created by the managed decomposition of organic matter. Community composting prevents food waste from going to the landfill and makes quality soil that can be used in backyards and community gardens.

The Compost System Design Competition asked participants to design a compost system in a container that could be replicated for neighborhood use. The final two competitors, the Workshop School and Let's Talk Trash Team, are currently building and testing their designs. The winner will be announced later this year, and the winning design will be shared across Philadelphia, encouraging other neighborhoods to build a community composting system and help achieve Philadelphia's Zero Waste vision. 🌱

### WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABLE THING YOU DO?

**Jim Kenney**, Mayor of Philadelphia:

*"I adjust my thermostat every morning before I leave for work. It's an easy way to reduce my energy use at home and save money."*



## The Port Goes Electric

Thanks to a \$300 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you'll soon breathe a little easier when you cross the Walt Whitman Bridge. In 2016 Governor Tom Wolf announced a major investment in the Port of Philadelphia's infrastructure, warehousing, and equipment. Two-thirds of this investment will go to electrifying equipment at the South Philly Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, dramatically reducing air pollution from the facility.

The Packer Avenue Marine Terminal currently uses diesel cranes to move shipping containers. Those cranes emit a significant amount of particulate pollution. Diesel exhaust is classified as a potential human carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, meaning it can potentially cause cancer. Replacing diesel cranes with four new all-electric cranes will eliminate diesel exhaust while ensuring that the Terminal can continue to provide economic benefit to Philadelphians.

The Port and City of Philadelphia are exploring additional opportunities to update facilities and reduce diesel exhaust. Future investment could lead to retrofitting the last remaining backup diesel crane, electrification of other port systems, and retrofitting support vehicles across Port operations. 🌱



## Getting Philadelphia to Zero Waste

Each year Philadelphia disposes of nearly 1.5 million tons of residential and commercial waste, creating emissions that contribute to climate change. Some of that waste also ends up as street litter, taking away from the beauty of Philadelphia's neighborhoods. The good news is much of what is thrown away as trash can be recovered and put to better use through reuse, donation, recycling, and composting.

That's why the City set a goal of Zero Waste by 2035. The Zero Waste and Litter Plan describes a set of actions to help Philadelphia eliminate street litter and divert waste from landfills. To help achieve these goals, the City launched a new website at [www.cleanphl.org](http://www.cleanphl.org) where you'll see be able to see the litter conditions on any block in Philadelphia and debuted Philacycle, a partnership with Recyclebank to reward residents for helping achieve the Zero Waste vision.

### WHAT DOES ZERO WASTE MEAN?

Zero Waste may sound self-explanatory, but it's not that simple. Philadelphia's long-term "Zero Waste" goal is to get rid of the use of landfills and conventional incinerators by 2035. To do this, Philadelphia will reduce waste creation and keep 90% of waste out of the landfill by 2035. The remaining 10% will be used to generate electricity.

PHOTO BY PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION



### HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE?

The Zero Waste and Litter Plan lays out numerous strategies to meet this ambitious goal, including:

- The Building Waste Audit Program is a guide for City-owned and commercial buildings to better understand their waste generation. This program will check that all City-owned buildings have a recycling plan and create the Recycling Ambassador Program, where selected staff members oversee recycling and educate fellow staff.
- The Zero Waste Events Program solidifies Zero Waste goals, plans, and resources for all public events requiring a permit in Philadelphia. It sets the standard for events and gives vendors access to compost pickups and recycling.
- The Zero Waste Partnership Program will encourage Philadelphia residents, community groups, non-profits, municipal government, businesses, and institutions to reduce waste, increase recycling and composting, and adopt waste diversion practices—and recognize them for their efforts.
- Zero Waste Pathways—Over the next decade, Philadelphia will be exploring citywide organic material collection as well as increased access to non-single stream recycling for residents and commercial entities. The Streets Department is currently conducting an "Organics Feasibility Study" to find out what's needed for citywide compost collection, and we're piloting smaller-scale technologies through the Compost Design Competition (see page 7).

To get the full picture, read the Zero Waste plan in its entirety.

Want to know how you can get involved? Visit [www.cleanphl.org](http://www.cleanphl.org) to get started! \*





### City Building Earns Efficiency Award

The City of Philadelphia owns and operates more than 600 buildings, and we know there are opportunities to cut energy waste in each one of them. After a big energy efficiency investment and hard work by the building's occupants, Philadelphia's One Parkway Building, situated on the north side of Love Park, became the first City-owned building to earn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® certification for efficiently using energy.

One Parkway significantly reduced energy use after the completion of the Quadplex Guaranteed Energy Savings Project. The Quadplex project installed energy-saving measures in the City's four largest downtown office buildings: City Hall, Municipal Services Building, the Criminal Justice Center, and One Parkway. In One Parkway, these measures included new building control systems, building envelope improvements, and new lighting.

On top of that work, the Office of Sustainability's Energy Efficiency & Sustainability Fund (EESF) provided more lighting improvements this summer that are used by the Department of Human Services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The new LED lighting is motion-activated, automatically shutting down when an employee is no longer in the room. Rhonda D. Starks, an employee of DHS said, "It makes it easier for me to work because it's brighter. I have more light than I had with the old [fixtures]." Across the hall, Shantell Roberts explained that when she looks across her desk, everything isn't dull anymore.

The EESF offers funding to departments on a competitive basis to support the implementation of sustainability projects within existing City-owned facilities. EESF investments have saved the City approximately \$1.7 million in energy costs over the life of the program. 🌟

### Philadelphia Joins Government Alliance on Race and Equity

Greenworks envisions a city that is sustainable for all Philadelphians. A city where health outcomes and success rates vary by skin color or zip code cannot be a sustainable city. Yet, throughout the 20th century, policies led or influenced by the City of Philadelphia—like urban renewal, redlining, and disinvestment in communities of color—caused racial inequality in our city. To address this structural racism, the City of Philadelphia has joined four other U.S. cities in a program called Racial Equity Here to improve opportunities for residents no matter their skin color.

Through Racial Equity Here, City leaders are working with Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), Living Cities, and the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society to dismantle institutional racism, eliminate racial inequities, and improve outcomes for all.

The City of Philadelphia's Racial Equity Here team created a Racial Equity Vision to build a government that mirrors the diversity of its community, instills principles of racial equity in its policies, and leverages opportunities for people of color to create equitable outcomes for all Philadelphians.

Through a focus on diversity, inclusion, and equity, an assessment of our workforce found that communities of color are underrepresented in certain sectors or levels of the workforce. To counter this, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is working with City leaders on creating diversity plans to help departments institute best practices around hiring, promotion, and retention procedures to help reduce institutional barriers to a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects the diversity of our City.

The City is also committed to making sure that everyone has access to equal and high-quality service regardless of the community that they're from. The Department of Licenses + Inspections is examining whether response time to complaints relates to race, poverty, and volume in the communities where the complaints are being made. This analysis will inform staffing needs and office locations.

As the Office of Sustainability updated Greenworks in 2016, we heard that the benefits of sustainability are not equally reaching all our neighborhoods. In an effort to confront environmental inequity, the Office of Sustainability is developing the Greenworks Equity Index. Through the Equity Index, OOS will work with communities disproportionately exposed to environmental stressors, like heat. The goal of the program is to understand how communities are already coping with these stressors, to increase community capacity to adapt, and to decrease their exposure. 🌟



### WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABLE THING YOU DO?

**Barbara Bassett**, Lawncrest Retirement Center resident:

*"I hang my clothes to dry in my apartment to conserve energy, rather than use the dryer in the laundry room."*

# Inspiring the Next Generation of Sustainability Leaders

Motivated and involved young people are the foundation of a sustainable Philadelphia, today and tomorrow. Read on to find out how the School District of Philadelphia is leading on sustainability and what books might interest the budding environmentalist in your life.

## Philadelphia's Green Ribbon School District

*What does the GreenFutures plan have in store for Philadelphia public school students?*

Last May the School District of Philadelphia was one of nine districts nationwide to receive the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools sustainability award. The award recognizes schools around the country committed to innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

In Philadelphia, that means implementing the District's first-ever comprehensive sustainability plan, *GreenFutures*. The plan launched in 2016 and has already made progress across its five focus areas (see sidebar to the right). Stay tuned for the first annual GreenFutures Progress Report later this year, which will outline why it's no surprise the School District of Philadelphia is already receiving national recognition for its sustainability efforts. 🌟



Green schoolyards can transform the way children play, move, and learn. They also have a role in achieving the city's targets for sustainability, wellness, and stormwater management. A strong network of community leadership and resources is emerging in Philadelphia to support schoolyard transformation. To learn about resources to help you green your local schoolyard, check out the Community Design Collaborative's *Transforming Philadelphia's Schoolyards* guide.

PHOTO BY JENNA STAMM COURTESY OF THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND







## What is GreenFutures?

The School District of Philadelphia's GreenFutures program is made up of numerous initiatives across five focus areas:

### EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Bringing the lessons of sustainability into the classroom.

### CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

Training our youngest residents to lead Philadelphia to a litter-free future.

### ENERGY AND EFFICIENCIES

Saving money and leading students to the clean energy jobs of the future.

### SCHOOL GREENSCAPES

Providing students with outdoor education and recreation spaces.

### HEALTHY SCHOOLS, HEALTHY LIVING

Ensuring schools are safe, clean, and healthy spaces to learn.

To learn more about Green Futures, visit the School District of Philadelphia's new website:

[www.philasd.org/greenfutures/](http://www.philasd.org/greenfutures/)

## Sustainability Books for Kids

Here are a few books to talk to young Philadelphians about sustainability. For more suggestions, ask a librarian at your local Free Library branch!

### CLIMATE CHANGE

#### **Cecil the Pet Glacier**

by Matthea Harvey and Giselle Potter

AGES 4-8

#### **Energy Island: How One Community Harnessed the Wind and Changed Their World**

by Allan Drummond

AGES 6-10

#### **The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge**

by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen

AGES 7-10

### CONSERVATION

#### **The Lorax**

by Dr. Seuss

AGES 6-9

#### **Under the Ocean**

by Anouk Boisrobert and Louis Rigaud

AGES 4-6

#### **Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold**

by Joyce Sidman and Rick Allen

AGES 6-9

### FOOD + AGRICULTURE

#### **The Gardener**

by Sarah Stewart and David Small

AGES 4-7

#### **The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever**

by H. Joseph Hopkins and Jill McElmurry

AGES 5-10

#### **What If There Were No Bees?: A Book about the Grassland Ecosystem**

by Suzanne Slade and Carol Schwartz

AGES 7-9

### WASTE + RECYCLING

#### **The Adventures of an Aluminum Can**

by Alison Inches and Mark Chambers

AGES 4-6

#### **Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth**

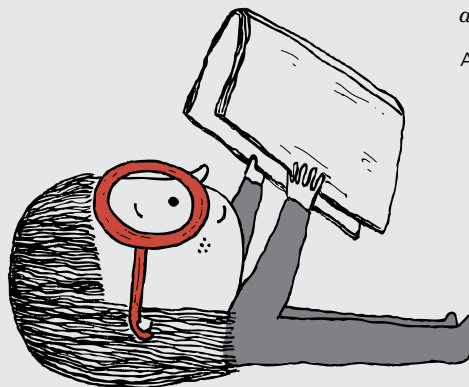
by Mary McKenna Siddals and Ashley Wolff

AGES 3-7

#### **Magic School Bus Meets the Rot Squad**

by Joanna Cole, Carolyn Bracken, and Bruce Degen

AGES 4-8



# Q+A

w/ CHARLES ELLISON

Charles Ellison is a North Philadelphia native and the host and executive producer of “Reality Check” on WURD Radio. He’s a veteran political strategist (Principal of B|E Strategy) who’s worked for years in Washington, D.C., and served as a senior aide and operative to a number of state, local, and federal policymakers. As an analyst, current local media personality, and longtime Washington Correspondent for The Philadelphia Tribune, he’s thought deeply about planning in Philadelphia.

But he mostly considers himself a concerned resident and parent. Ellison has used his platforms to tell Philadelphians about the dangers of climate change and how we can all prepare for hotter, wetter weather and work to reduce harm to ourselves and our neighbors. He spoke with OOS about how to make conversations about climate change in Philadelphia more interesting and inclusive.

**Q: Why is it challenging to have a conversation around climate change in Philadelphia?** **A:** There are a few challenges. We know that there are voices in our country that are deliberately spreading misinformation, political influences that are turning people’s attention toward short-term interests at the expense of the long-term threats to our neighborhoods. Schools aren’t out there talking about climate change, so this misinformation is the



primary way a lot of people are interacting with the topic, and it’s focused on the money and the political interests.

But I think it’s also challenging because talking about climate change is so wonky. It feels disconnected from people’s day-to-day struggles. “How does it make my quality of life better?” There’s a disconnect in how we talk about it, and a challenge in making it relevant to our residents.

**Q: You’ve talked about inequities in how climate change is addressed. How do we do a better job of talking about and resolving those inequities?**

**A:** I think it has to be a partnership. We know that communities need to be at the table, that there needs to be outreach, and there’s an opportunity to do much more of that. We can do a better job of connecting climate change and sustainability to the

daily struggles of people in Philadelphia.

So many of the conversations that have happened around climate change are panels. Panels are good, but they can just be preaching to the choir. We need to find creative ways to have our message resonate, and we need to ensure we’re including people of color in that conversation. People need to see their community, the leaders and main figures, speaking out on climate change.

There are institutions that already exist in communities that residents trust. Local radio, black newspapers. Those resources exist and can help communicate the importance of climate action. Our neighborhoods already trust these institutions, so that’s an opportunity.

**Q: On that last point, who are the best messengers to talk about climate change, particularly in communities of color?** **A:** There are so many. There are local advocacy organizations focused on neighborhoods, the local urban leagues. WURD and other radio outlets. Faith leaders should be a big part of the conversation.

And I’d focus on young people, on education. We have great local universities that can play an education role, and black elected officials, particularly young officials, who will be part of this community as we continue to deal with climate change in the years ahead. 🌟

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“We can do a better job of connecting climate change and sustainability to the daily struggles of people in Philadelphia.”



# REAL TALK

*What you can do to prepare for hotter, wetter, more extreme weather...*

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

See the worksheet on page 35 to think through how your neighborhood can cooperate during a disaster.

pg.

35

## KEEP COMFORTABLE

See the house diagram on page 42 to get ideas of how to make your house more comfortable and less expensive to run during extreme weather.

pg.

42

## VOTE WITH YOUR DOLLARS

You can choose a clean energy provider by following the steps outlined on page 43.

pg.

43

## COUNT YOUR CARBON

Take the quiz on page 45 to identify new opportunities to reduce the carbon pollution you produce.

pg.

45

## Get More Than a Ride with Your SEPTA Key or Pass!

Sure riding SEPTA is already rewarding. But it's more than just a ride. Did you know your SEPTA Pass, and now your SEPTA Key, gets you discounts on food, drink, museums, sports, shops, and more? Use your valid SEPTA Key, TrailPass, TransPass, or One Day Independence Pass and receive discounts to any of our Perks Partners. It's that easy! No special coupons or member cards needed. Just flash your SEPTA Pass or Key and you're an instant VIP. SEPTA is always adding new Perks, so be sure to check back often.

*And don't forget the most obvious Perk—riding SEPTA is flat-out convenient.*

Go to [iseptaphilly.com/perks](http://iseptaphilly.com/perks) to find SEPTA perks for your favorite participants!



# Block by Block, Residents Are Building a More Sustainable Philadelphia

*Read about local groups making a difference in Philadelphia neighborhoods.* ►





The room was silent. The meeting organizers worried that no one would participate in their new program to help neighbors recycling cooking oil. They knew that some in the community were struggling with plumbing backups from putting oil down the drain, but without volunteers to host oil collection barrels, they couldn't make their solution happen.

"What if there's no value in recycling oil?" some community members asked. Others had the opposite concern: "What if it's so valuable that our property becomes a target for theft?" Many were just concerned about the smell or other nuisances.

After some time, one man stood up and said, "Aren't we doing this to do the right thing, to be models for our children?" and offered to host a barrel. Local faith leaders stood too, and **Feed the Barrel** launched with 14 locations in South Philly, including neighborhood houses of worship.

#### Opportunities in Our Neighborhoods

Feed the Barrel is a local community organization founded by Philadelphia immigrants, with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to create an easy and environmentally-friendly way to recycle cooking oil. Today it reaches beyond its South Philly origins to serve neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia and has processed more than 2,000 barrels of cooking oil.

Feed the Barrel wasn't started by a government agency or non-profit think-tank, or because of a charitable donation from a large corporation. Instead, it's just one example of communities in Philadelphia recognizing a challenge and taking initiative to overcome it.

Once neighborhoods agreed to host oil recycling sites, Feed the Barrel took off. A partnership with a local company, Eden Garden (itself founded by Italian immigrants) followed, and there are now drop-off sites in several Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Rather than disposing of used cooking oil by dumping it down the drain (which can harm the pipes in your home and damage Philadelphia's sewer system and waterways), Feed the Barrel provides an easy, safe, and environmentally friendly way to solve oil waste challenges in Philadelphia. The partnership with Eden Garden allows the waste to be reused as biofuel, soap, and compost.



Join Al Dahler, Merlin Wahyudi-Lamson, and Cut Zahara from Feed the Barrel by hosting an oil collection site or dropping your used oil at a neighborhood location near you. Find one at [www.FeedTheBarrel.org](http://www.FeedTheBarrel.org).

"We weren't just settling for giving out information," said Cut Zahara, one of the founders of Feed the Barrel. "We wanted to offer solutions." Host sites often provide other benefits to participants. One is an organic community garden that offers fresh food to oil recyclers, creating a virtuous cycle for neighborhood kitchens.

#### Cyclist Support in West Philly

In the mid-1990's organizers in West Philadelphia also saw a solution to their community's need for low-cost, reliable transportation. They launched "Youth Cycle & Recycle" in 1996, today known as **Neighborhood Bike Works** (NBW). The organization helps both youth and adults learn how to build and repair bicycles, providing these community members with new skills, access to another mode of transportation, and a community built around learning.

Meesh Ritondo began volunteering with NBW almost a decade ago, and is

now the organization's development manager. Asked why she's been committed to the organization, she said, "Philly is my home. NBW works for accessibility for all, and directly works for the neighborhood around it." The program has distributed more than 120 bikes to local youth, who have biked more than 5,000 miles—and counting.

NBW's success has helped it attract resources and outside funding, including a grant from the William Penn Foundation to support the Freedom Riders program, a bike-driven environmental education and stewardship program for teens. On a recent ride through Miller's Run Creek in Darby, Freedom Riders held a scavenger hunt, collecting litter.

"More people active outdoors means that more people will become naturalists and care about the environment," said Barron Johnson, who manages the Freedom Riders program.





Members of the Neighborhood Bike Works Youth Council build youth leadership and youth voice in the NBW community. Learn more at [www.NeighborhoodBikeWorks.org](http://www.NeighborhoodBikeWorks.org).



Working together in our neighborhoods is one of the most powerful ways we can make change. To empower Philadelphians, the Office of Sustainability created **GREENWORKS ON THE GROUND**, a set of resource guides for how individuals, communities, and institutions can work towards a sustainable Philadelphia. Visit [bit.ly/GWotG](http://bit.ly/GWotG) or call 215-686-3495 to get copies of Greenworks on the Ground for your neighborhood.

### Greenworks on the Ground

Feed the Barrel's mission to help Philadelphians benefit from their used cooking oil also helps preserve Philadelphia's sewer system and keep our waterways healthy. Neighborhood Bike Works' efforts to provide residents with a safe space to repair and build bicycles reduces reliance on pollution-emitting cars and teaches residents skills that can be useful on the job. These community-driven programs are helping achieve several of Philadelphia's Greenworks visions of a sustainable city for all.

This isn't a coincidence. To help update Greenworks in 2016, the Office of Sustainability met with residents, community leaders, and issue experts to hear their priorities for a Philadelphia where residents in every zip code have quality neighborhoods. The resulting plan, *Greenworks: A Vision for a Sustainable Philadelphia*, is a direct response to that feedback.

Since launching in 2009, Greenworks has made the City of Philadelphia a local government leader on sustainability issues. But we know that to meet the long-term visions set forth in the updated plan we need community-led initiatives like Feed the Barrel and Neighborhood Bike Works throughout our city. That's why we developed Greenworks on the Ground, one-page resource guides for individuals, community groups, and large institutions to inspire action today and tomorrow.

### Local Empowerment

These initiatives can also provide alternative power structures that advantage women, people of color, and immigrants. Neighborhood Bike Works holds events every Wednesday evening for those identifying as women or transgender, including all gender identities beyond cisgender, to provide a space in the bicycling world that is often dominated by men.

Both groups also draw strength from their unique communities. While it now works city-wide, the idea of Feed the Barrel came from Indonesian immigrants who were part of a thriving South Philly community for new Americans. And NBW works among youth in Mantua,



“Surround yourself with people who are into it, and who are invested, and who are excited. Find who is committed in your neighborhood.”

—MERLIN WAHYUDI-LAMSON

a Philadelphia Promise Zone where many residents face deep poverty. Engaging this youth community is critical, said Johnson. “If we haven’t talked to them, if they’re not excited, if they aren’t engaged, why are we doing this?”

Feed the Barrel uses storytelling to build community by tying the program to the stories of its participants. Talking about the value of reusing oil and protecting the environment connects generations, engaging youth to be stewards of their communities. Hani White, the organization’s CEO, said storytelling “enables the immigrant women to feel deeply the connection between their past lives abroad and now in the United States. They are ‘paying it forward’ here.”

#### “Find Who Is Committed in Your Neighborhood”

We know that making Philadelphia a sustainable city for all will take action in each of our communities, but the good news is that the best resource to achieve lasting change is a renewable one: your neighbors.

Start a conversation at your next civic association meeting, at the corner store, or just while you’re shoveling snow this winter. What change do you want to see in your community? Are there tools that the City or other organizations already offer to help you achieve your goals? If not, can you and your neighbors create them together?

Neighborhood Bike Works and Feed the Barrel couldn’t have been successful without a positive attitude, a focus on solutions, and a foundation of trust on the ground. Asked what lessons she has for others thinking about tackling problems in their communities, Merlin Wahyudi-Lamson said “surround yourself with people who are into it, and who are invested, and who are excited. Find who is committed in your neighborhood.”\*

## I HAVE A GREEN JOB

Joseph Caesar, aka “Cowboy Joe”

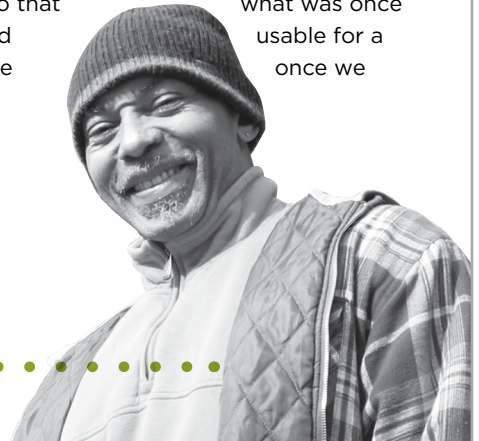
COMMUNITY INITIATIVE SPECIALIST, TREEKEEPERS

Joe got started in 1998 as a community organizer for a faith-based greening initiative. To expand on these skills, in 2002 he got a master’s degree focusing on community economic development. Now, he leads TreeKeepers, a workforce development tree maintenance group.

As an organizer, Joe held meetings with community members to understand their priorities and helped them create trails and viewing areas for the community. As a result of these efforts, he found that crime went down 87% in the places they revitalized, and he realized what an important tool beautification and landscape maintenance work is to promote safety.

“At first, we have forests. But they’re not just forests of trees. We have forests of neglect. We have forests of crime. And we shape that, we change that into forests of beauty. Forests of serenity. We work strategically to change these areas so that neglect can become beautiful and long time, not just for a little while are done.”

what was once  
usable for a  
once we



Neighborhood Bike Works offers free tools and repair advice to cyclists in the community.



## WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABLE THING YOU DO?

**VALERIE ERWIN**, Chef,  
Eat Café

*"I am a chef, a food justice advocate, and a lifelong Philadelphian. I practice food sustainability by buying only what we can eat, and repurposing as much of the (inevitable) overflow as possible. If I accidentally buy more than we need, I figure out how the food can be preserved. Maybe cooking and freezing; maybe pickling. One other big thing: I don't let "use by" dates coerce me into throwing wholesome food away. I've gotten to know what good food looks like, and I let that be my guide."*

PHOTO BY RICARDO BARROS



# Meet FPAC: Two Members and Their Stories

The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council (FPAC) is a group of volunteers that connect Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system. FPAC's vision is that all Philadelphians can access and afford healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate, local, and fair food.

Food policy councils seek to democratize decision-making on food issues that affect all of us. FPAC, led by more than 30 mayoral appointees, provides a space for community members, food systems professionals, and policy makers to connect on pressing food issues. FPAC holds smaller subcommittee meetings focused on specific food topics, and larger meetings that provide trainings and take care of official FPAC business. All FPAC meetings are open to the public, and everyone is welcome.

Larger FPAC meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month from 3pm to 5pm. Interested in a specific food issue? Join one of FPAC's subcommittees on Anti-Hunger, Good Food Procurement, Food & Health, Urban Agriculture, Workforce & Economic Development, and Zero Waste. For meeting locations or questions, contact FPAC at 215-683-5736 or [fpac@phila.gov](mailto:fpac@phila.gov). 🌱

PHOTO BY PETER TOBIA





“The food scene in Philly has extraordinary leaders. There is a pretty incredible cross-section of all walks of life who are at the table around these issues, and because of that there is legitimacy to the work that we’re doing.”



**NAME**

**ESTEBAN KELLY**

**ROLE ON FPAC**

Appointed Member, Co-Chair of FPAC

**FAVORITE PLACE FOR FOOD**

V Street and Abyssinia Restaurant

**BEST WORK TRIP THIS YEAR**

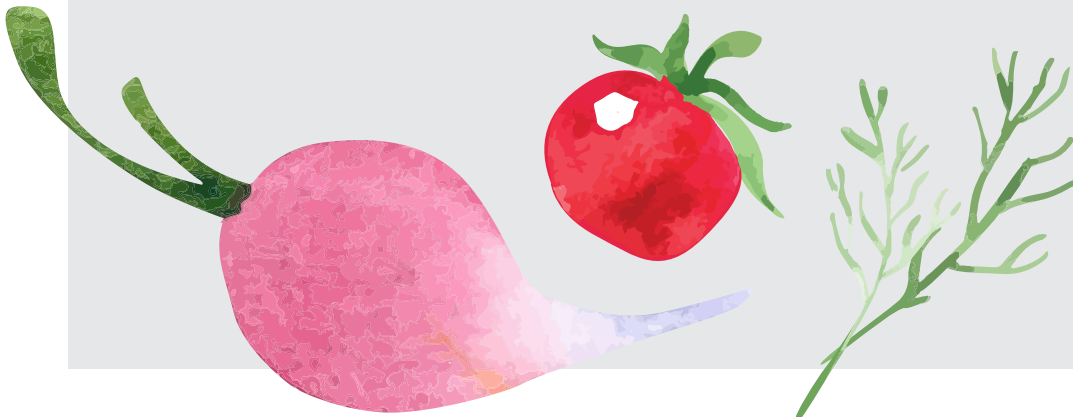
Naples, I mean it's the birthplace of pizza

As the co-founder and member-owner of the Anti-Oppression Resource and Training Alliance (AORTA), Esteban made a career out of passing his knowledge on to others through skilled facilitation. Now serving as the Executive Director of the U.S. Federation of Worker Cooperatives, the origins of his interest in the food system and cooperatives go back to his college days at the University of California in Berkeley.

Berkeley's network of on-campus housing cooperatives created their own food system to feed the hundreds of students living in the cooperatives. Esteban spent his work shifts breaking down bulk food orders in their central kitchen warehouse, packing trucks, and delivering orders to the cooperatives. He learned how to cook in his own 55-person housing co-op, which relied on its members to make dinner for the entire house almost every night. After moving to Philadelphia in 2004, Esteban joined and was eventually hired by Mariposa Food Co-op, which he said was an “amazing introduction into my whole community” in West Philly.

“The food scene in Philly has extraordinary leaders,” says Esteban on why he remains interested and engaged in food systems work. “There is a pretty incredible cross-section of all walks of life who are at the table around these issues, and because of that there is legitimacy to the work that we’re doing.” Over his four years on FPAC, Esteban has sat on three subcommittees (Zero Waste, Workforce & Economic Development, and Urban Agriculture), helped establish FPAC's first policy platform, and most recently stepped into the highest leadership position on the Council.

Esteban invests his volunteer time on FPAC because he recognizes that Philadelphia is a city of neighborhoods functioning on relationships. Nurturing these relationships allows us to raise up our communities together. When we talk about economic development, Esteban believes in separating the notion of business from the means of unrestricted consumption for the sole purpose of making a profit. “Small business doesn't mean capitalism, it actually means you, it means communities, it means your neighbors.”



“The first step of being involved is truly realizing that you have to get up, go to a meeting, and talk to humans.”



**NAME**

**KAMARYN NORRIS**

**ROLE ON FPAC**

Community member, Workforce & Economic Development Subcommittee Co-Chair

**FAVORITE PLACE FOR FOOD**

Circles Thai

**BEST WORK TRIP THIS YEAR**

New Orleans and Memphis

Kamaryn Norris is a busy lady. She works a full-time job at the Food Trust that has her traveling to D.C. and Harrisburg regularly while also working a part-time job in retail. A new South Philadelphia resident, she participates in her local civic association. Yet her busy schedule didn't deter her from adding one more meeting to her calendar for FPAC.

What makes spending her personal time on FPAC worthwhile? “Being around a network of people in non-profits, city government, and the private sector who are working together to address food systems challenges, I think that is really, really valuable,” Kamaryn says. She is connected to the food scene in Philadelphia through her full-time job, where she advocates for state and federal policies supporting food access in underserved areas. But on FPAC, she chooses to spend her time on another passion of hers: workers' rights.

An Atlanta-native, Kamaryn moved to Philadelphia to study sociology at Temple. Balancing work and school, she learned about the origins of this country's systemic problems in class, while experiencing them first-hand working in the food industry—anything from food processing to host jobs, and nothing that paid more than eight dollars an hour. Kamaryn recalls, “Working in the restaurant industry and in other low-wage positions around the city really got me passionate about the workers' rights movement.”

After her initial introduction to FPAC through the Food Trust, Kamaryn volunteered to co-chair the Workforce & Economic Development Subcommittee. Kamaryn's example shows that anyone can jump into FPAC's work. Being a part of a group of people advising the City on how to ensure workers along the entire food chain have decent, quality jobs that provide economic stability and upward mobility felt like the perfect fit for Kamaryn.

As a student, she focused her time on the grassroots level, choosing to work outside of the system rather than within it. In part through her service in FPAC, she realized that working within a system is just as important as pushing from the outside. Her advice: “The first step of being involved is truly realizing that you have to get up, go to a meeting, and talk to humans.” And she did just that.







## ABOUT THE GUIDE

FPAC's Good Food Procurement Subcommittee developed the guide to help consumers find businesses offering food that is healthy, sustainably-sourced, fair, and locally-owned.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

City departments spend more than \$100,000 per year on food for meetings and events. The City recognizes the responsibility and opportunity to increase support for a healthy and sustainable food system with these catering purchases.

GRATEFUL PLATE



The guide features businesses offering food that meets at least two of the four 'good food' values:



### HEALTHY

Fruit and vegetable options, healthy sides and salads, whole grains, grilled/roasted/baked entrees, vegetarian dishes, low-sodium offerings, and water or unsweetened drinks



### SUSTAINABLY-SOURCED

Animal welfare, organic ingredients, fair trade, and local sourcing



### FAIR

Benefits and transparent living wage policies beyond minimum legal requirements



### LOCALLY-OWNED

Valid commercial activity license and place of business is located in the city

FIKIRA BAKERY



## Want to be in the guide?

Go to [tinyurl.com/FPACguide](https://tinyurl.com/FPACguide) and submit your contact information. We will send you the application when the next evaluation round begins.

## Nominating a business?

Send the name of the business to [fpac@phila.gov](mailto:fpac@phila.gov) explaining why you think it should be listed!

**Check out the latest guide on our webpage!**

[WWW.PHILLYFPAC.ORG](http://WWW.PHILLYFPAC.ORG)

[FPAC@PHILA.GOV](mailto:FPAC@PHILA.GOV)

# Philly Free Streets

OCTOBER  
28  
2017

The City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation & Infrastructure Systems hosted its second Philly Free Streets program on Saturday, October 28, 2017. The route from 3rd & Chestnut to 5th & Indiana created a car-free connection across several Philadelphia neighborhoods. Philly Free Streets temporarily closes streets to cars, inviting people to walk and bike. Philly Free Streets highlights these active transportation options, as well as neighborhood walkability and its positive impacts on public health, the environment, business, and the community.



PHOTOS BY  
PETER TOBIA















#PhillyFreeStreets



For more information on upcoming events, visit [PhillyFreeStreets.com](https://PhillyFreeStreets.com).







# Test Your Knowledge of Recycling at Home

TRUE or FALSE

1	You can put plastic bags in your recycling bin.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F	2	You don't need a blue bin for recycling.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
3	Philadelphia has single stream recycling, which means that all materials the City accepts can go in one bin.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F	4	Each year, Philadelphia residents and businesses get rid of 1.5 million tons of waste.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
5	You can get two free recycling bins per year from the City of Philadelphia.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F	6	You can recycle an unrinsed peanut butter jar.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F
7	Plastic cutlery and paper towels can be recycled in Philadelphia.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F	8	Recycling one ton of cans saves enough energy to power an average U.S. home for over a year.	<input type="radio"/> T <input checked="" type="radio"/> F

SEE OUR  
Philly Recycling Guide

p. 39

ANSWERS [1] FALSE. You can bring them to recycling bins located at the front of most supermarkets, large grocery stores, or big box stores. [2] TRUE. You can use any hard-sided container as long as it's not larger than 32 gallons and you label it RECYCLING. [3] TRUE. See page 39 for information about what can go in your bin. [4] TRUE. That's about one ton for every resident. [5] TRUE. There are dozens of free bin distribution locations throughout Philadelphia, which you can find on page 2. [6] FALSE. Rinse out your materials because food waste can damage recycling machinery and slow down the process. [7] FALSE. [8] TRUE. Recycling ALL cans in the U.S. would save enough energy to power 4 million homes for a year!

## I HAVE A GREEN JOB

**Michael Ferguson**

MAINTENANCE CUSTODIAN,  
SEPTA

Michael has worked for SEPTA for 17 years. He and his team take care of everything that has to do with cleaning. "We do everything we can to help the city and SEPTA," says Michael, "and if we can do it better, we will."

SEPTA tripled the frequency of cleaning over the past year and a half and switched to using less toxic cleaning supplies. SEPTA maintains everything within the station, outside to the curb line, and usually a little bit beyond for good measure.

To keep SEPTA clean, we all need to be on board. "Our job is a not an easy job," reflects Michael. "I'm not here just for a paycheck. We're trying to make Philadelphia safer and clean. "







PhillyFoodFinder.org

AT [PHILLYFOODFINDER.ORG](http://PhillyFoodFinder.org)  
PHILADELPHIANS CAN:

#### Search for all needs in one place

*The toolkit brings resources together in one, easy to access place.*

#### View information on-the-go

*Users can view the site on their smartphones and in different browsers. It's a resource that providers can consult during a local health fair, or for a community member helping a neighbor.*

#### Move beyond immediate food assistance

*The website provides detailed information on applying for SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs that help low-income families buy or receive food.*

#### Add a food resource

*Are we missing something? Users can add a food resource through a simple online form at <http://bit.ly/2miqazp>.*

## WHAT PROGRAMS ARE GOOD FOR ME?

Use the chart below to see what programs may work for you and your family.

PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN					
PEOPLE WITHOUT CHILDREN					
DOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS					
UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS					
HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS					
COLLEGE STUDENTS					
SENIOR CITIZENS					

VISIT  
[PhillyFoodFinder.org](http://PhillyFoodFinder.org)  
TODAY!



SNAP/Food Stamp Benefits



WIC Packages  
School Breakfast & Lunch  
Free Summer Meals for Children



Meals at Senior Centers  
Home-delivered Meals



Free Groceries at Food Pantries



Free Meals at Soup Kitchens



Fresh Produce at Farmers Markets

# SOIL SAFETY

## AND BEST PRACTICES

Photos by Ali Mendelson

Urban gardening produces healthy and low-cost food for residents. However, urban soil may have contaminants from years of human activity. Below you will find best practices for growing food safely in urban soil.

Contaminants in soil travel into the body mainly through your mouth. Though we all know not to eat dirt, soil can get into your mouth when you breathe in soil dust, touch your mouth after digging in the dirt, or eat produce that still has dirt on it.

*These soil safety best practices will help you avoid any contaminants that might be in your soil. They are simple, easy, and affordable actions that many gardeners are already doing.*



1

### Use Compost

Mix compost into the soil that is already in your garden.

Adding compost to your soil reduces the concentrations of contaminants that might be in the soil. Compost also helps grow healthy plants.





2

### Use Raised Beds

Plant in raised beds lined with a barrier and filled with clean soil and compost.

Raised beds are simple structures that many gardeners use to grow outdoors, but not directly in the ground. Growing in raised beds filled with compost and store-bought soil reduces your exposure to the ground soil that may be contaminated.

3

### Cover Soil

Cover walkways and common areas to reduce contact with soil dust. Also cover the soil directly surrounding your plants using salt hay.

Use mulch, wood chips, landscape fabric, or stones to cover walkways. You can also plant grass to cover bare, dusty areas. By doing this, you are less likely to walk in contaminated soil and bring it back to your home.

Salt hay is a material that helps keep moisture in your soil. Covering the soil around your plants with salt hay also prevents soil from splashing on to the leaves of the plants that you eat.





4

### Leave Soil in the Garden

Leave tools, boots, and gloves that may have soil on them outside your home. Clean off or take off dirty clothes and shoes before going inside.

It is important not to track soil into your home. Soil will turn into dust around the house that you breathe into your mouth. Leaving gardening supplies outside reduces the chances of bringing soil home with you.



5

### Wash Hands and Wear Gloves

Always wash your hands after gardening and working in soil. Wear gloves when you garden.

Washing soil off your hands prevents you from accidentally getting soil into your mouth later. Make sure you use soap and water, not hand sanitizer. Wearing gloves is a good way to prevent the soil from getting on your hands.





### Wash and Peel Produce

Wash all produce before eating it, and peel root vegetables.

Washing and peeling produce prevents you from accidentally eating soil. It is especially important to wash leafy vegetables, like lettuce, collards, spinach, and kale. Soil backsplash can be hard to rise off, so be thorough. Or you can remove the outer leaves of these plants before washing and eating. Root vegetables, like potatoes, turnips, and beets, grow deep in the soil. Peel these vegetables so that you don't accidentally eat the soil left of the surface.



6



7

### Know What to Grow

Avoid growing root vegetables and leafy greens in contaminated soil.

You are more likely to accidentally eat dirt left on root vegetables and leafy greens. Fruiting plants, like tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, apples, and peppers, are less likely to be affected by contaminated soil.

### Keep an Eye on Children

Children should follow these best practices too! Make sure children wear gloves and wash their hands after playing in the garden.

Children are still growing and developing. Because of this, exposure to contaminants like lead can be particularly bad for children. Children are more likely to put their hands in their mouths and might accidentally eat the soil. Talk to your pediatrician about how to keep your child healthy and safe in an urban environment!

8



**Want more information? For a more in-depth guide to soil safety best practices, contact the Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council at 215-683-5736 or [fpac@phila.gov](mailto:fpac@phila.gov).**



# WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR GARDEN SOIL?

Urban gardening has many benefits to community health and the City of Philadelphia wants to support healthy gardening practices.



## HEALTHY SOILS ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY GARDEN



Nutrition starts in the soil, where the food grows. Healthy soil grows healthy food. However, urban soils may have pollutants from years of human activity.

The Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority and the City of Philadelphia can help to answer questions about the soil in your garden (or the land you would like to garden in) by conducting an environmental site assessment.

These assessments will check the health of your garden's soil and provide custom recommendations for safe growing.

## HOW TO GET SOIL SAFETY SUPPORT

### SUBMIT A PROPERTY FOR CONSIDERATION

Go to: <https://goo.gl/qAZKcL>  
Or Contact: Elisa.Ruse-Esposito@phila.gov  
215-683-3605

#### ELIGIBLE

Must be publicly owned.

#### NOT ELIGIBLE

Can't be privately owned.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

If your parcel is chosen for environmental site assessment:



SITE VISIT



SITE RESEARCH

IF NECESSARY



SOIL SCREENING AND/ OR SOIL TESTING



CUSTOM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR GARDEN



## WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO START GARDENING SAFELY:



USE RAISED BEDS



WEAR GLOVES



WASH VEGETABLES



PEEL VEGETABLES

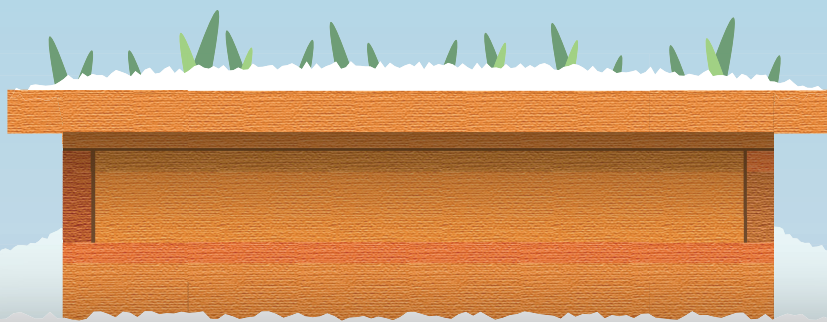


MULCH PATHWAYS





**Get free or  
discounted green  
home upgrades that  
protect Philly's rivers.**



**Beat the spring rush—  
sign up for winter  
workshops!**

**NEW WEBSITE!**  
**PWDRainCheck.org**

**PHILADELPHIA  
WATER**  
— DEPARTMENT —

## I HAVE A GREEN JOB

**Ezekiel "Zeke" Harrell**

BUILDING MAINTENANCE  
SUPERVISOR, FREE LIBRARY OF  
PHILADELPHIA

Zeke has been with the Philadelphia Free Library since 2006. He started as an electrician and worked his way up to Building Maintenance Supervisor for branch libraries. "I love my job! I'm given the authority to make decisions and to design solutions within our facilities," Zeke said.

Zeke started his career in Virginia, where he studied to get his electrician's license and completed an apprenticeship. After a short run as a firefighter, Zeke returned to electrical work when he moved to Philadelphia.

As the City works to improve the energy efficiency of its lighting, Zeke is constantly learning new skills and technologies. "The existing lighting systems are old, and we've been working to change all of them over to more efficient LEDs," says Zeke. "Technology is changing fast, and my position lets me adapt to those changes."



# Together, Connected Communities Can Weather Climate Change

When David Pickett and his neighbors in West Belmont started organizing rallies and cleanups three years ago to help reduce crime and drug use on their blocks, the last thing on their minds was climate change. Little did they know that their work would also help their community get ready to deal with the hotter, wetter, and more extreme weather that climate change is bringing to Philadelphia.

West Belmont's focus on public safety made a partnership with the City of Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) a natural fit. Residents first connected with OEM to get help gathering supplies they can use during emergencies. After they learned about how to prepare individually, people in West Belmont were eager to participate in a new OEM program, READYCommunity, which guides residents as they create an emergency plan on the block level.

"Each block got together and did their own plans and got each other's phone numbers and emergency contacts," explained Pickett, the President of the West Belmont Civic Association board. "We make copies for each person," and they put them in their go bags, which hold things they'll take with them if they need to evacuate.

Philadelphia is getting more and more extreme weather thanks to climate change. Since 2010, Philadelphia had the snowiest winter, the two warmest summers, the wettest day, and the two wettest years on record, as well as two hurricanes and a derecho (a severe windstorm—usually associated with thunderstorms—that produces damage along a relatively straight path). Fifty-seven daily high temperature records have been set in Philadelphia since the year 2000, 28 of them since the year 2010.

Making plans and gathering supplies certainly helps prepare for these new normals, but we also know that a very simple task, getting to know your neighbors, can make the difference between thriving and suffering during an emergency. During an infamous heat wave in 1995 in Chicago



David Pickett (far left) and his Belmont neighbors holding a block clean-up.

that killed more than 700 people, residents who lived in places where people knew each other and checked in on vulnerable neighbors such as the elderly and sick survived much better than residents in neighborhoods where people interacted less.

According to Pickett, READYCommunity has helped West Belmont identify "who has what resources on your block, what neighbors are elderly that you need to check up on during heat waves, and who's going to check up on those neighbors."

Forming the two-year-old civic association has had benefits far beyond reducing crime. "I've formed special relationships

with a few seniors in our area who are part of our group," shares Pickett. "One I even call mom, and I didn't know her before West Belmont Civic Association." In an emergency he says he'll "call or knock on her door."

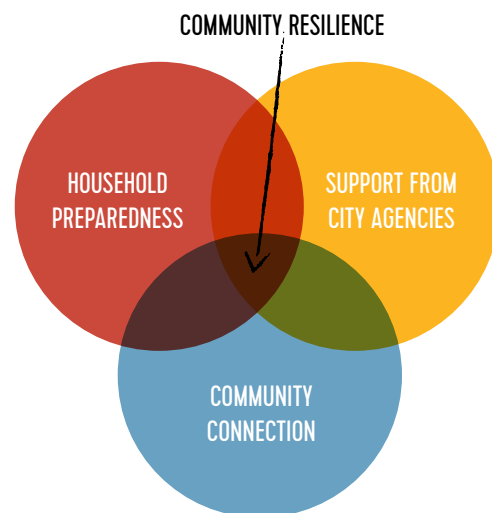
"In Belmont, we all talk to each other. I know everybody on my block and they all know me, and we talk all the time... I know the neighbors down the street and around the corner I know most of them." Pickett says in an emergency, people will know which neighbors they haven't seen and will check up on each other. These relationships will help the Belmont community weather any storm. 🌟



# RESILIENT COMMUNITY *worksheet*

A resilient community uses its neighborhood connections, skills, and resources to prepare for, respond to, and bounce back quickly after an emergency. A resilient community requires a combination of household preparedness, community connection, and support from City agencies. Connecting with local organizations and knowing what resources your community and the City offer are great first steps to becoming resilient.

***Fill out the tables below to begin connecting your neighborhood resources with local needs.***



***What neighbors may need help before, during, or after extreme weather?***

NAME	HELP NEEDED	WHO CAN CHECK IN ON THEM

***What skills and resources do neighbors have that may be helpful before, during, or after extreme weather?***

NAME	SKILL OR RESOURCE	CONTACT INFORMATION

***Are there local businesses or organizations that could provide help before, during, or after extreme weather?***

ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS NAME	WHAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE	CONTACT INFORMATION

# Community Leaders: In Their Own Words

Many of Philadelphia's neighborhoods already have strong community leaders who are interested in knowing more about all the resources available to help them build sustainable and resilient communities. The Citizens Planning Institute (CPI), a seven-week training program founded in 2010, aims to help provide Philadelphia community leaders with the resources they need to achieve local change. We spoke with two CPI graduates about how they're making change in their neighborhoods.



*In case of a disaster, this sign can help rescue workers and your neighbors know if you need assistance. →*

**MY NAME IS WILMA MACK. OUR GROUP'S NAME IS 5500 THOMPSON STREET TOWN WATCH AND VICINITY.**



Our mission is to keep the Carroll Park Neighborhood safe by keeping it clean. The area my team focuses on is from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street to 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and from Girard Avenue to Lansdowne Avenue.

I'm a friendly fusser, always getting things cleaned up and fixed. My mama taught me, "Don't complain if you're not going to be part of the solution." I realized that some of the children in the neighborhood didn't understand that fact, so I had to educate and show them. These were men, younger than me. I challenged them always about cleaning out front and the alleys, shoveling the snow for the elderly and ladies because it's the right thing to do.

The CPI class was simply awesome. I learned about planning for the seasons, resources that we're about to implement such as CLIP and 311, and getting the youth excited and involved. I'm now Vice-President of the RCO [registered community organization, the designated neighborhood group for planning and zoning issues] in our area with another CPI graduate because I understand zoning and the issues that come with it.

Every concerned citizen should take the CPI class and any other class offered to improve their neighborhood. Get the 311 app and if you see something, say something.

**MY NAME IS WAYNE MORRIS. I AM THE BLOCK CAPTAIN FOR THE 1500 BLOCK OF ALLISON STREET IN WEST PHILADELPHIA.**



My project is to create something at the corner of Lansdowne and Allison Street. Our area has not seen anything new since I have lived in the community. Originally I was thinking about a park, but now, after the CPI class, I want to create a project and connect with the other Allison Street blocks and determine what exactly

we would want with low maintenance. I have a list of issues that now face the project including whether we need to form a new community group, who owns the project, and how do we design, plan, and pay for it.

The CPI class was one of the most important things I have done in a long time. There was lots of information, contacts, interesting people, and organizations that I have since connected with. It has helped me to re-focus on the project for the corner of my block with the proper resources in hand.

After attending the CPI course, I believe that there are many around the city with the same concerns and desires. Many people come through the block and comment that it reminds them of when they were little kids, growing up in their neighborhoods when people were connected and cared about their community.



Are you or someone you know interested in being part of the Citizens Planning Institute? Visit [www.citizensplanninginstitute.org](http://www.citizensplanninginstitute.org) or call 215-683-4648 to learn more about CPI, see course offerings and more stories from past participants, and sign up for the next application period.



In case of disaster, display “OK” sign in front window of house or vehicle if you **DO NOT** require assistance.

OK

For use in a disaster such as flood, fire, or storm.

[Phila.gov/ready](https://www.phila.gov/ready)

In case of disaster, display “HELP” sign in front window of house or vehicle if you **DO** require assistance.

HELP

For use in a disaster such as flood, fire, or storm.

[Phila.gov/ready](https://www.phila.gov/ready)



# Philly Recycling Guide



EVERYTHING THAT CAN  
AND CAN'T GO INTO YOUR  
RECYCLING BIN!

## ✓ PUT THESE IN

### PAPER

#### **Remove from plastic sleeves/ bags**

Newspapers and Inserts  
Magazines, Brochures, and  
Catalogs  
Junk Mail, Envelopes, Writing  
Paper  
Scrap Paper  
Paper Bags  
Phone Books  
Paperback Books  
(no hardbacks)  
Greeting Cards, Gift Wrap  
(non-metallic)



### PLASTICS

#### **Emptied & rinsed, lids & caps ok**

All Food and Beverage  
Containers  
Hard Plastic Takeout Containers  
Plastic Cold Drink Cups and Lids  
Detergent and Shampoo Bottles  
Pump and Spray Bottles



### METALS

#### **Emptied & rinsed, lids & caps ok**

Aluminum, Steel, and Tin Cans  
Empty Paint Cans  
Empty Aerosol Cans  
Aluminum or Steel Baking Trays/Dishes  
Jar Lids and Bottle Caps  
Clean Aluminum Foil



### CARTONS

#### **Emptied & rinsed**

Milk  
Juice  
Wine  
Soups



### CARDBOARD

#### **Flattened & free of grease & food**

Corrugated Cardboard Shipping  
Boxes  
Clean (not greasy) Pizza Boxes  
Paper Towel Rolls  
Egg Cartons  
Dry Food Boxes



### GLASS

#### **Emptied & rinsed, lids & caps ok**

All Bottles and Jars

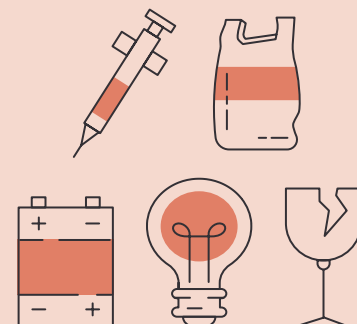


## ✗ KEEP THESE OUT

Plastic Bags  
Food Waste  
Wet or Food-Soiled Paper  
Waxed Paper Plates, Cups, and  
Takeout Containers  
Greasy Pizza Boxes  
Light Bulbs  
Porcelain and Non-Container Glass  
Cassette Tapes/VHS and Audio

Styrofoam™  
Food/Beverage Containers and  
Shipping/Packing Material  
Garden Hoses  
Needles and Syringes  
Batteries  
Tissues, Paper Towels, and Napkins  
Pots and Pans  
Electronics

Straws  
Solo Cups



Recycling must be put out in hard-sided bins labeled **RECYCLING**.

For information on how to dispose of other waste, check out page 2 or visit [www.philadelphiastreet.com](http://www.philadelphiastreet.com).

# Choose Your Energy Future

Energy costs are a higher burden for low-income Philadelphians than for those who make more money, and our low-income population spends a higher proportion of their earnings on energy than residents of almost every other city in the country.

Why? Philadelphia's climate, with both cold winters and sweltering summer heat waves, plays a role. Philadelphia's housing stock of primarily older rowhomes and high low-income homeownership rates are important, too. Low-income homeowners often lack access to capital, which can prevent them from making investments in their homes, leading to leaky doors and windows and failing roofs.

If your energy bills are feeling like a burden, you can take action and make our energy system work better for you while decreasing our city's carbon pollution.





### Assistance is Available

The world of energy is complicated, but the good news is organizations are available to help you answer your questions and provide assistance. These include the companies that you pay your bills to: both PECO and PGW both offer payment assistance programs, and they'll share the cost of new, more energy efficient appliances. The City of Philadelphia also provides homeowners free emergency electrical, heating, and structural repairs through the Basic Systems Repair Program.

To help you prevent or work through an energy emergency, a local non-profit, the Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA), can provide you individual counseling. ECA runs 14 neighborhood energy centers throughout Philadelphia, where counselors listen to residents' stories and teach them what they can do based their specific circumstances. "ECA helps Philadelphians identify ways to cut energy waste and save money that are low or no-cost," explains Mari Gonzalez, Community Programs Assistant at ECA.

Energy-saving steps can be as simple as putting a blanket under a drafty door, lowering the temperature setting on your hot water heater to 110 or 120 degrees, and changing or cleaning air filters on your heater once a month. (For more ideas on how to save energy in your home, see the graphic on page 42.) "ECA's goal is to tell people what they can do, not what they should do," says Gonzalez.

And there is a lot to do! Philadelphia residents, businesses, and institutions have more choices than ever about how to use energy. These choices can not only save money and keep you comfortable, they can also reduce carbon pollution from our energy system.

### Know Your Supplier

Philadelphians can directly influence the energy system by choosing where their electricity comes from. Through the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commissions's PAPowerSwitch.com tool, residents and businesses can choose their electricity supplier, prioritizing cost-savings or clean energy. Increasing the amount of clean energy purchased in Philadelphia reduces carbon pollution. Check out page 43 for guidance on how to choose an electricity supplier that meets your needs.

Large institutions and local governments like the City of Philadelphia can also change their energy supply choices. In Fall 2017 the City, in partnership with the Philadelphia Energy Authority, released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an off-site renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA). Through this RFP, the City of Philadelphia aims for the first time to make a long-term commitment to purchase renewable energy from a wind, solar, or other renewable project in the region. A PPA of this size would promote renewable energy generation, create jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and help the City move toward its goal of using 100% clean energy.

### Generate Your Own Power

Residents and businesses can also explore the option of generating electricity on their home or property. In 2017 the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) launched Solarize Philly, a citywide program to help Philadelphians go solar at home. Solarize Philly offers free solar assessment, discounted pricing, and subsidized financing options for low- and moderate-income households. *Article continued on page 44.* ▶



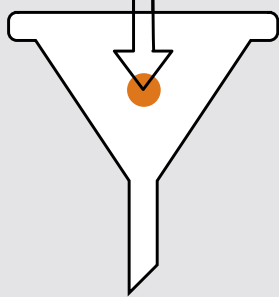
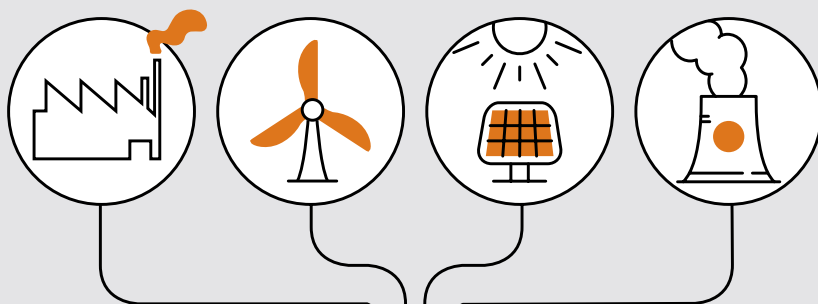
## Your Energy Choices Can Save You Money

PECO is responsible for electricity **distribution** and billing in Philadelphia, but you can choose another company as an electricity **supplier** to help you save money or purchase clean electricity.

**Read on to find out how electricity is supplied to Philadelphia and what choices you have.**

### ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS

You have a choice!



### Choose to Reduce Home Energy Use

- 1 Install a **programmable thermostat**.
- 2 **Clean air filters** and **recharge coolant** to improve air conditioning efficiency.
- 3 Keep your **windows sealed** in the winter.
- 4 Use **ENERGY STAR**-labeled LED lightbulbs.
- 5 Wash your clothes in **cold water** and consider air-drying clothes on racks.
- 6 Check for **ENERGY STAR** label when replacing appliances and fixtures.
- 7 **Unplug** any devices not in use.
- 8 Consider **planting trees** to provide shade.

### ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

Always PECO





# CHOOSE THE **ELECTRICITY** THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

from PAPowerSwitch.com

Electricity suppliers can sell over the phone or door-to-door, but we encourage residents to use PA Power Switch to find the supplier that's right for you.

START HERE

Are you currently enrolled in the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) with PECO?

YES

Residents currently enrolled in the CAP should continue to use PECO as their electricity supplier.

NO

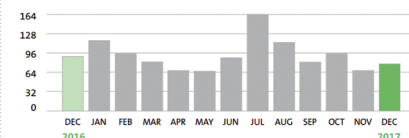
Visit  
[www.PAPowerSwitch.com](http://www.PAPowerSwitch.com)

Enter your zip code, choose "Regular Residential Service," then click "See Full Results."

Enter your average monthly electricity usage (see sample PECO bill to right) to see rates for all suppliers in your zip code and consider the 4 factors below:

Your Usage Profile  
ANNUAL ELECTRIC USAGE

[peco.com/smartideas](http://peco.com/smartideas)  
Save energy and money



Period	Usage	Avg Daily Usage	Days	Avg Daily Temp
Current Month	80	2.6	31	44
Last Month	69	2.4	29	55
Last Year	93	3.0	31	44
Avg kWh per Month 95				
Total Annual kWh Usage 1,141				

## 1. AVERAGE PRICE

You'll see an Estimated Per Month cost for each supplier. This is only a portion of your bill, so your actual monthly bill will be higher.

## 2. PRICE STABILITY

Choose a Fixed Price if you want your rate to stay the same. Variable rates may be lower at some times, but can end up costing you more.

## 3. CLEAN ELECTRICITY

You can choose a percentage (up to 100%) of your electricity from renewable energy. Also consider:

### GENERATION TYPE

"Renewable" is broadly defined by the PUC. Choose wind or solar generation to ensure you are purchasing zero-emission electricity.

### LOCATION

Under Special Programs, you can also choose PA Wind or Renewable PA to ensure your electricity is generated within the region, promoting local clean electricity.

## 4. HIDDEN FEES

### INTRODUCTORY PRICES

Some suppliers may charge you a low initial price, then increase the price after a period of time. This will be listed in the offer.

### ENROLLMENT FEES

Some suppliers charge an initial up-front fee to sign up. Depending on how much electricity you use, this might be a good option to lock in a lower monthly rate.

Click "Sign Up for This Offer" and follow directions to complete your switch. You'll receive a notification from both PECO and your new supplier.

If you choose an alternative supplier, you'll continue to pay PECO for electricity each month.

Article continued from page 41.

Choosing to go solar can not only cut your electricity bill, it helps create jobs for your neighbors. PEA is partnering with the School District of Philadelphia on a solar training program for high school students. The first class in 2017 prepared 18 Philadelphia students to pursue careers as solar installers. PEA is working with partners to offer additional solar training for high school students and adults in 2018.

#### Empower Your Community

Energy is at the center of our lives, but it can be out of sight and out of mind. After you explore your own energy choices, share these tips and resources with others on your block, at your work, and in your community.\*



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

**Need help paying your energy bills?** To find the payment arrangement, assistance or grant program, or budget plan that best meets your needs call:

#### Basic Systems Repair Program

215-448-2160

#### Emergency Heater Repair

##### Hotline

215-568-7190

#### Energy Coordinating Agency's Neighborhood Energy Centers

215-609-1000

#### PECO's Customer Assistance Programs

800-774-7040

#### PGW's Helpability Hotline

215-235-1000

✂ CUT OUT AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

# Solarize PHILLY

A Citywide Program to Help All  
Philadelphians Go Solar at Home



Solarize Philly is a group buying program for Philadelphians who want to install solar on their homes. By signing up, homeowners get a free solar assessment from a pre-approved installer and have the opportunity to go solar at a below-market price. All homeowners interested in solar can sign up now at [www.solarizephilly.org](http://www.solarizephilly.org).

The Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) launched Solarize Philly in July 2017 to make the process of installing solar as easy and affordable as possible, while also supporting solar training and improving access to clean energy for all neighborhoods. Starting in 2018, PEA is offering a subsidized financing option for low- and moderate-income households.

Contact Solarize at [solarize@philaenergy.org](mailto:solarize@philaenergy.org) or 215-686-4483  
to learn more!

















# How Can Your Choices Slow Climate Change?

Throughout the Greenworks Review, we've included stories of Philadelphia residents and neighborhoods working together to strengthen their communities while also cutting carbon pollution. But do you know how much your choices can contribute to slowing climate change? *Take the quiz below and find out!*

For each of these actions mark if you're:

Already Doing It ☒ Interested in Doing It ☐ Not Able to Do It ☐

	Avoid one long flight (7000 miles round trip)
	Live without a car
	Switch commute from car to SEPTA
	Buy clean energy for your home
	Avoid one medium flight (1000 miles round trip)
	Switch to a plant-based diet
	Change household to LED lighting
	Wash clothes in cold water
	Hang-dry clothes
	Recycle
	Delay upgrading to newest smartphone
	Replace your fridge with a new efficient model

FOLD THIS PAGE OVER TO THE LEFT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE TO SEE HOW YOUR CHOICES CAN HELP CUT CARBON POLLUTION!



Each of these actions cuts carbon pollution. Take a look at the results to see how much each action helps slow climate change.

Continued from page 45.

## Take a look at your ? actions.

Try one out to see if it's right for you, and consider prioritizing new actions that will make the biggest difference. **Every action Philadelphians take to cut carbon pollution will help slow climate change.**

### CLIMATE IMPACT

An acre of U.S. forest absorbs almost 1,900 pounds of carbon annually, and a 10-year-old tree can absorb more than 23 pounds of carbon per year.



EQUAL TO 1  
ACRE OF FOREST



EQUAL TO 1  
TEN-YEAR OLD TREE

Indego gets me  
out of the house  
to get a workout.  
**I feel GREAT!**



**Calvin Linton**

*Indego's Philly to a Milli Winner!*

**UNLIMITED  
1-HOUR RIDES**

**FOR**

**\$15/MONTH**  
CASH OR CREDIT  
PAYMENT OPTIONS

**SIGN UP ONLINE AT [RIDEINDEGO.COM](https://rideindegocom)**

[f](https://rideindegocom) [i](https://rideindegocom) [t](https://rideindegocom) [@rideindegocom](https://rideindegocom)

### WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABLE THING YOU DO?

**PATRICK EIDING**, President, Philadelphia  
Council AFL-CIO:

*"I follow recycling rules, use energy efficient appliances, replaced incandescent light bulbs, cut my energy use by subscribing to PECO programs that promote energy conservation, and always use reusable bags for shopping."*





# Spot the Sustainable Actions

There are as many ways to be sustainable in Philadelphia as there are neighborhoods, and our cover illustration highlights just a few. Can you find them all? What are some other ways you could improve the quality of life in your community? **Tweet with the hashtag #GreenworksPHL.**

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNE LAMBELET

COLOR  
ME!



# Q+A

w/ MIKE DiBERARDINIS

As Philadelphia's Managing Director, Mike DiBerardinis is responsible for the day-to-day operation of one of the largest cities in the United States. His career has taken him from community organizing in North Philadelphia into City Hall, then to the Harrisburg State Capitol before settling back in the city he's called home for decades. He sat down with OOS staff to talk about his origins as an organizer and what sustainability means to him.

**Q: As you started your career, what were some of the issues you saw in the community?**

**A:** Philadelphia and cities in general during that time were still very influenced by big political movements: civil rights, the anti-war movement, women's rights, and environmentalism. A sense of equity was very important, that we were banding together for action that couldn't happen individually.

Specifically, I was working in neighborhoods that had been damaged by decades of redlining [the practice of banks and government institutions refusing to lend to African-American residents and businesses]. Neighborhoods need housing and institutions to thrive, so we fought to keep St. Christopher's Hospital from leaving North Philly, and successfully homesteaded nearly a thousand tax-delinquent properties, turning the deeds over to residents. It was an anti-racist agenda, focused on equity, fairness, and opportunity.

**Q: What were some of the challenges you faced as an organizer?**

**A:** Getting started, it was access to resources, getting things off the ground. In my first job with the Kensington Youth Organization, I showed up to work in what was essentially an abandoned building. It took years



to build up staff to organize and empower residents.

**Q: How did you transition into working for the public sector?**

**A:** It started through organizing. We supported some candidates through an independent Political Action Committee, including [former Philadelphia Mayor] Wilson Goode, and from there I ran my own campaign for City Council in 1991. I didn't win, though I did come pretty close.

A few weeks later, Ed Rendell approached me—he was about to be elected Mayor, and offered me the position of Recreation Commissioner.

**Q: How did your organizing background help you succeed in the Rendell Administration?**

**A:** The goals are the same in government as in the community: we need systems that can provide equity, fairness, and opportunity. If the systems can't provide those things, our communities can't succeed. People in a community facing a challenge generally know the solution to that challenge. It's

up to government to help meet that solution.

As Rec Commissioner, one of my responsibilities was connecting residents and rec leaders to one another and to the resources they needed to achieve neighborhood goals. These are the same kinds of connections I was making when I worked within the community, just from another point of view.

**Q: Where did you first encounter the idea of sustainability as it relates to your work?**

**A:** It was when I was getting ready to take over at the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [responsible for managing forests, parks, and open space in Pennsylvania]. They had a few big programs running at the time: sustainable forest management, land protection, smart growth, and economic opportunity initiatives. All of them were focused on the sustainable "triple bottom line": social, environmental, and economic responsibility.

Working at DCNR I had the opportunity to travel across Pennsylvania, and I talked to people. I went to town fairs and I had dinner in people's homes, and I asked them "What do you want for your communities?" People were really focused on the future, and the idea of sustainability plays into that.

**Q: Coming back to Philadelphia, why do you think sustainability is so important for our city?**

**A:** We have to get sustainability right here. We have the freedom—the political freedom—to experiment and to be leaders, and we can be a model for others. Our residents have authorized us to lead on sustainability, and we need to take them up on it.





Mike DiBerardinis spent the first years of his career in Philadelphia organizing for tenants' rights in Kensington.

I think we also have to remember that the cities that are going to be competitive, that are going to thrive economically as we move forward are the ones that embrace sustainable trends. Philadelphia is already a leader in efficiently using energy, efficiently moving people through transit, and there's more work happening on these issues every day. So we need to keep growing that leadership.

**Q: What sustainability issue do you think is most pressing for communities in Philadelphia today?** **A:** To me I think you have to settle climate change while we're settling these other big issues of race and class. As we're providing jobs, and new public space, walkability for residents, sequestering carbon in our forests, thinking about the economic lens and the racial equity lens is critical. But they're all connected, and that's why sustainability and climate change are both the biggest challenges and the biggest opportunities.

**Q: What advice would you give to a sustainability advocate just starting out today?** **A:** Start with what matters to you. Have a core organizing principle, and work from there. Whether you're working to connect people, to push government, or to enact social change, keep connecting it back to why you're doing this work in the first place.

I think it's important to ask ourselves, what's the value proposition for sustainability in Philadelphia's neighborhoods today? We can talk about government and institutions—those influence our neighborhoods too—but this work needs to connect with what residents need. That's an essential ingredient for success. 🌟

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“People in a community facing a challenge generally know the solution to that challenge.”

### WHAT'S ONE SUSTAINABLE THING YOU DO?

**MACK HOLLINS**, Philadelphia Eagles rookie wide receiver:

*“I don't have a car, so I ride my bike to and from the practice facility every day. There are so many benefits that come with that. For one, it's great exercise and it helps with my conditioning, but more importantly, it keeps Philly clean. I do whatever I can to help, so this is a natural way for me to reduce my carbon footprint. I'm proud to play in this city and for a team like the Eagles who are viewed as sustainability leaders worldwide. It's very motivating when you work with people who are just as passionate about something as you are.”*





[www.phila.gov/green](http://www.phila.gov/green)



@greenworksphila



**Working together in our neighborhoods is one of the most powerful ways we can make change.**



To empower Philadelphians, the Office of Sustainability created **GREENWORKS ON THE GROUND**, a set of resource guides for how individuals, communities, and institutions can work towards a sustainable Philadelphia. Visit [bit.ly/GWotG](http://bit.ly/GWotG) or call 215-686-3495 to get copies of Greenworks on the Ground for your neighborhood.

Stay up to date on opportunities to get involved with Greenworks by signing up for our newsletter at [www.phila.gov/green](http://www.phila.gov/green).