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Fall 2012



SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA  
**AIR QUALITY**  
PARTNERSHIP, INC.



## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

By Jayme Graham, Chair

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Look Inside!

Dec. 6 meeting agenda

DEP grant program

Insulation 101



Ahh, the cool and cold weather settle in again in southwest Pennsylvania. As we start to prepare for the end of the year, we look back on 2012.

Within the Partnership, we gave awards to several students for their environmental posters, and, in doing so, were able to visit four schools with Dan the Magician and his amazing and fun messages on recycling and alternative transportation. We also gave rebates to persons trading in gas lawnmowers for electric ones.

Coach Air Quality, our mascot, was seen all around the eight counties of our Partnership. We've had a major membership meeting in January at Phipps Conservatory, and joined the Pittsburgh Regional Clean Cities

and Sustainable Pittsburgh in a transportation program.

Our near future is just as exciting. We are proud to be a co-sponsor with the Sustainable Pittsburgh's 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 workshop on December 6<sup>th</sup> – see detailed information elsewhere in this newsletter. Hope to see you there!

We expect to expand the lawnmower exchange program this coming spring, have already started this year's student poster contest, and are looking at new programs such as a school flag program and a joint project with Bike Pittsburgh. Does this interest you? Then sign up through our website [www.spaqp.org](http://www.spaqp.org) to get more information.

I want to thank our sponsors for this year: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Allegheny County Health Department, and Kevin J Weaver Consulting. I also want to thank all the hard-working Officers and Board of Directors, and our recent Administrative Assistant, Thom Jones.

The search of a new Administrative Assistant has given us a chance to look at all our programs, and plan a new future. What are your plans for the future, how will those plans help us all find a cleaner environment? Keep warm, and see you soon at an event near you!

Jayme



A Network for Sustainable Business



## Employee Actions for Better Business and Cleaner Air

**Date:** Thursday, December 6, 2012

**Time:** 8:00 am □ 11:30 am

**Location:** Allegheny HYP Club, 619 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Breakfast Provided**

Cost: \$25 for C4S/Sustainable Pittsburgh/Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership, Inc. Members, \$45 Nonmembers, Students: Special Rate

**Register at <http://www.c4spgh.org>**

### Overview

This workshop addresses practical actions that employers and employees can put into practice to help improve productivity, health, wellness, and effectiveness in the workplace. The program features a presentation on the benefits of knowing about daily air quality forecasts as well as panel sessions providing a variety of practical advice on improving indoor air quality.

### Who Should Attend?

Human resource managers, corporate sustainability coordinators, company green team members and leaders, building operators, and any employees from all sectors who are interested learning ways to improve their work environments, increase their health and wellness, increase productivity through improved air quality.

### Agenda

8:00 □ 8:30 Registration and Breakfast

8:30 □ 8:40 Welcome and Background on the Air Quality Series

8:40 □ 9:00 Opening Address - Productivity, Air Quality, and Design

[Vivian Loftness](#), FAIA, LEED AP, Professor, School of Architecture, [Carnegie Mellon](#)

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**Dec. 6 Fall Annual Meeting in cooperation  
 with  
 A Network for Sustainable Business and the  
 Breathe Project  
 Sign up now!**

9:00 □ 9:10 Q&A

9:10 □ 9:30 [Enviro Flash](#) Forecasts - What They Mean for You and Your Company

**Sean Nolan, Meteorologist, Air Quality Program, PA Department of Environmental Protection**

9:30 □ 11:15 Panel: Air Quality in Your Place of Work-- Helpful Programs

**Responding to the Air Quality Forecast: Commuter Options**  
**Lisa Kay Schweyer, Commute Info**

**Preventing Sick Building Syndrome: Indoor Air Quality Policies and Testing**  
**Tony Gaglierd, Environmental Health Administrator**  
**Allegheny County Health Department**

**Benefits and Strategies: Tobacco Free Workplaces**  
**Cindy Thomas, Executive Director, Tobacco Free Allegheny**

**How to Implement a Fragrance Free Workplace Policy**  
**Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, Executive Director, Women for a Healthy Environment**

**Improving Air Quality with Plants in the Workplace: Hydro Soil for Indoor Plants**  
**Christine Rigby, SCA Green Cities Fellow , Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)**

**Biking and Smoking Cessation Programs**  
**Phyllis Barber , Sustainability Coordinator , Highmark**

11:15 □ 11:30 Event summation and Networking with the Panelists

11:30 Adjourn

Student registration and other questions, please contact:  
 Matthew M. Mehalik, Ph.D., Program Manager, Sustainable Pittsburgh [mmehalik@sustainablepittsburgh.org](mailto:mmehalik@sustainablepittsburgh.org)

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## DEP announces grant program

### DEP Announces Opening of Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program

Applications Due Feb. 1, 2013

**Harrisburg** – The Department of Environmental Protection announced today it will begin accepting applications Dec. 1 for its Natural Gas Vehicle Grant program, which will provide up to \$20 million over the next three years to help pay for the incremental purchase and conversion costs of heavy-duty natural gas fleet vehicles.

“With this new technology coupled with grant money available, Pennsylvania is in a leadership position to wean our country from its dependence on foreign oil for transportation fuel,” DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said. “Through Act 13, Governor Corbett and the legislature moved us in the right direction by creating opportunities for converting vehicle fleets from imported oil to homegrown, clean-burning, cheaper natural gas.

“The next step was our standing-room-only series of seminars DEP hosted over the past few months to educate the public about the grant program and converting vehicle fleets to run on natural gas,” he said. “Now, our grant program will provide funding for local governments, schools and businesses to land lower operational costs, lessen dependency on foreign oil and clean the air all at the same time.”

In the first year, \$10 million in grants will be available, \$5 million of which is slated for local transportation organizations, including non-profit agencies providing public transportation services and public transportation, port and redevelopment authorities. Non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, local transportation organizations, state-owned or state-related universities, commonwealth or municipal authorities and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will be eligible to apply for the remaining amount.

An additional \$7.5 million in funding will be available the second year, with \$2.5 million the third year.

Eligible vehicles must weigh 14,000 pounds or more and be fueled with compressed natural gas or liquefied natural gas. Bi-fuel vehicles are also eligible.

Grant awards will be capped at 50 percent of the incremental purchase or retrofit cost per vehicle, with a maximum total of \$25,000 per vehicle. The incremental purchase cost is defined as the difference between a vehicle eligible for these grants and one powered by traditional fuels, such as diesel or gasoline.

For this first year, grant applications are due Feb. 1, 2013. Grants will be awarded in late March 2013.

To learn more about the program and complete the online grant application, visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) and click on the Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program button.

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As part of the Partnership's outreach campaign, Coach AQ visited at events in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Westmoreland and Washington Counties this summer, as the Partnership partnered with ut message out to the public. In addition to having a presence on the television websites in July and August, Coach AQ visited a number of sites along with station personnel.

Coach AQ danced at the Washington County Fair at WJPA's booth and rocked through a number of Allegheny County concerts at Hartwood Acres. He visited Soergel Orchards and traveled to a number of church festivals around the region with KDKA radio. The Coach sweated it out at Kennywood with KDKA and WTAE television stations.

Coach AQ in Washington County.





# Insulation Puts a Blanket Around Your Home for the Winter

## Why Do I Need Insulation?

Next to proper air sealing, insulation is arguably the most important feature that contributes to your comfort and your home's overall energy efficiency. Without proper insulation, your home needs larger, more expensive heating and cooling devices to keep you comfortable and those devices need to work harder, consuming more electricity, gas, or oil and costing you money.

Consider this. On a cold winter night, would you rather have a thick, puffy down-filled blanket or a single thin cotton sheet on your bed to keep you warm? Think of insulation as the blanket for your home.

Ideally, insulation surrounds the living area of your home forming a barrier between the living area and outdoor temperature extremes. In the energy efficiency field this is often referred to as the "building envelop". Understanding where these barriers are (and are not) in your home and whether those barriers are sufficient is one of the top jobs of an energy auditor.

R-value is a measure of a material's ability to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the more effective that material is at preventing heat loss from your home in the winter and heat gain in the summer. In general, you should have insulation in the following areas of your home. Recommended R-Values are for Western Pennsylvania referenced from [NAIMA](#):

- Attic and Cathedral Ceilings: R38-60
- Exterior Walls: R13-15
- Floors over Garages, Crawlspaces or Unheated Basements: R25-30

An energy auditor can identify additional areas of your home where insulation is appropriate.

## What Type Insulation Should I Use?

The type of insulation you use depends on a number of factors including:

- Material Cost
- Labor Cost
- Accessibility of the Area to be Insulated
- Material Characteristics

Fiberglass Batts are typically used in new construction and in areas that are easily accessible, such as an attic.

Blown-in Cellulose (recycled/treated paper) is ideal for closed wall cavities and atop existing attic insulation.

Foam Panels are ideal as exterior building sheathing and within the band joists of your basement.

Spray or Injected Foam is ideal to fill around plumbing and electrical penetrations and band joists. Spray Foam is doubly effective as an air-sealer in these applications.

## About CCI

Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI) is a Pittsburgh based non-profit that has since 1978 helped western PA families [and businesses](#) to [GetEnergySmarter](#) by providing home energy audit and assessment services that show our customers how to save money and energy [all while improving comfort and safety](#). Contact CCI at (412) 431-4449, ext 225 or [info@ccicenter.org](mailto:info@ccicenter.org).

