

Mayor's Green Guide



Letter from the Mayor

Dear Neighbors,

We hear a lot about “going green” and “sustainability” in the media and in conversation almost everyday, but what does it really mean? At the City of Pittsburgh, we believe that sustainability means operating in such a way that lessens our impact on the environment, while finding ways to save money, improve the services we provide to citizens and grow the local economy. It also means living our lives in such a way that we do not diminish the ability of future generations to produce and thrive.



In October 2008, I created the Office of Sustainability and Energy Efficiency to provide guidance to the City in making our operations more sustainable. While I’m proud of the steps the City is taking to “go green,” I know that to truly become a sustainable city, we need all of our residents and businesses to do their part.

Sustainability encompasses a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from saving energy, to recycling, to reducing water pollution. It is hard to find the right source of information explaining how we can all improve sustainability.

That’s why I am happy to share with you the first “Mayor’s Green Guide,” to help you find the information you need to reduce your impact on the environment, save money and improve your health. This guide includes information on the services provided by the City, as well as resources for getting involved in your community.

Together, we can ensure that Pittsburgh will continue to be America’s Most Livable City for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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Recycle

Recycling is mandatory for every resident, business, office, and institution in the City of Pittsburgh. Residential recycling is picked up every other week. Please place items curbside in a blue bag or blue container clearly labeled "Recycling."

Acceptable at Curbside

- Aluminum, and bi-metal cans
- Glass jars and bottles
- Plastic bottles and containers #1-5
- Newspapers
- Paperboard
- White office paper
- Mixed/colored paper and junk mail
- Telephone books, catalogs and magazines
- Corrugated cardboard (flatten and tie all boxes)

To find out your collection day, more information on refuse and recycling pick-up, Public Works Drop-Off Center locations and special collection days, please call Environmental Services at 412-255-2773 or visit the City of Pittsburgh [website](#).

Recycling not only reduces waste, but saves energy. By recycling approximately 30% of our waste every year, Americans save the energy equivalent of 11.9 billion gallons of gasoline.



For the convenience of residents, the City also operates several Drop-Off locations that may accept additional items to those collected curbside, including:

- Yard debris (loose or in a paper yard bag)
- Scrap metal (no freon appliances)
- Scrap tires (limit 2, no rims)

Drop-Off Facilities

East End Drop-Off Center

North Dallas Ave. at Hamilton Ave.
412-665-3609

Hazelwood Drop-Off Center

Melanchton Ave.
412-422-6524

West End Drop-Off Center

Next to Herschel Field
412-937-3054

Strip District Drop-Off Center

30th & Railroad Streets
412-255-2773

Please note: Does NOT accept yard debris, scrap metal or tires

Construction Junction (Point Breeze)

214 N. Lexington Ave.
412-243-5025

Please note: Does NOT accept yard debris

Electronics and Hard-to-Recycle Materials

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc
412-488-7490
www.prc.org/community_collections.html

Freon Appliances

Appliance Warehouse
412-381-8800

Construction Waste and Furniture

Construction Junction
214 N. Lexington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-243-5025

www.constructionjunction.org/

Hazardous Household Wastes and Chemicals

Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force
www.swpahhw.org/home.html

Medical Equipment (ie, crutches, wheelchairs)

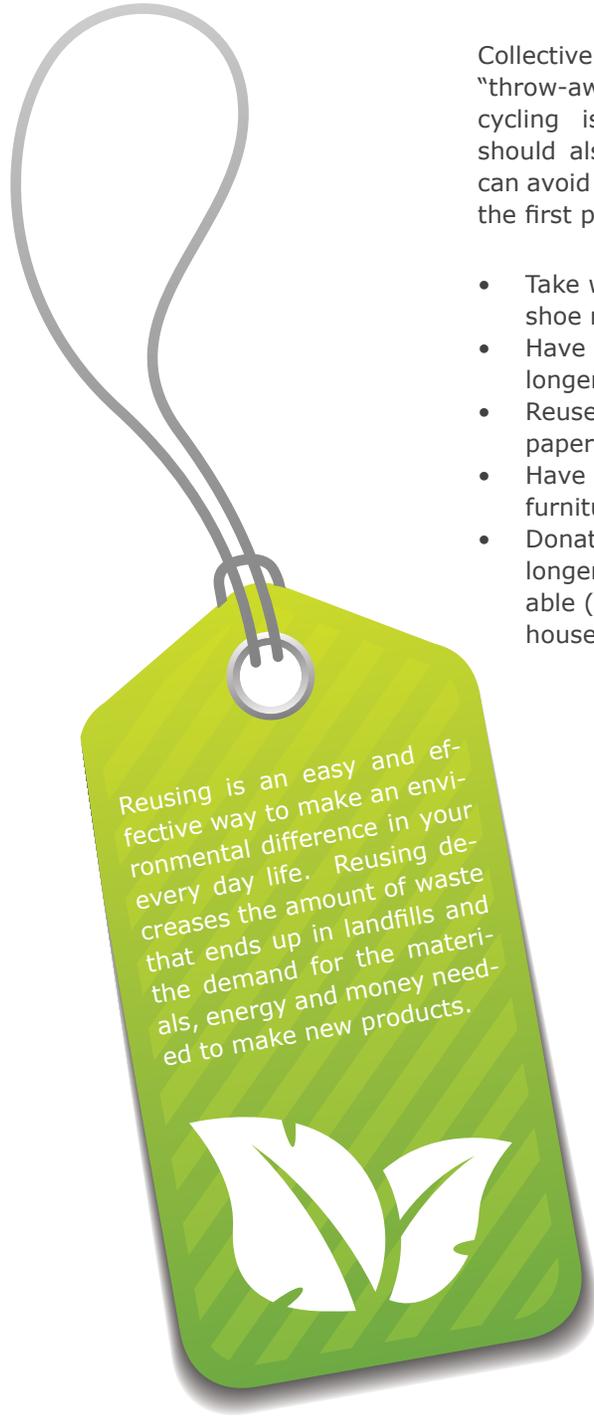
Global Links
4809 Penn Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-361-3424

www.globallinks.org/

did you know?

Citizens can drop off printer/toner cartridges, cell phones, and alkaline batteries for recycling on the first floor of the City-County Building?

Reuse



Collectively, we live in a largely “throw-away” society. While recycling is very important, we should also think about how we can avoid throwing things away in the first place

- Take worn out shoes to a shoe repair shop;
- Have clothes tailored that no longer fit;
- Reuse gift bags and wrapping paper;
- Have chairs/couches/porch furniture reupholstered; and
- Donate or sell things you no longer want, but are still usable (ie. books, clothes, toys, household items)

Reusing is an easy and effective way to make an environmental difference in your every day life. Reusing decreases the amount of waste that ends up in landfills and the demand for the materials, energy and money needed to make new products.



Composting

Whether for yard clippings or food waste, composting is a way to keep organic materials out of landfills and create a valuable product for landscaping and gardening. City residents may drop off yard debris at three Public Works collection centers: East End, Hazelwood, and West End Public Works Drop-Off centers. Proof of residency is required. A small fee is charged for truck loads and vehicles with trailers.

The City Recycling Division also offers two seasonal curbside collections. Residents should place leaves in paper yard bags for collection in the fall. The City also offers curbside Christmas tree collection.

Citizens may also choose to compost in their own homes or backyards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides an overview of composting at their [website](#).

Carnegie Libraries

Borrowing books from the library is a great way to reuse resources already in existence, instead of buying new. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has more than 20 convenient locations in the Pittsburgh area. To find the branch most convenient to you, visit Carnegie Libraries on the [web](#) or call 412-622-3114.

Free Ride @ Construction Junction

Free Ride is a self-proclaimed “non-traditional repair shop” where instead of fixing damaged bikes, or selling new ones, they educate people on how to repair bikes, and allow volunteers to earn free bike parts and eventually, their own bike.

Free Ride
214 N. Lexington St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-731-4094
<http://freeridepgh.org/>

did you know?

Locally, the Pennsylvania Resources Council offers Backyard Composting Classes throughout the summer and fall. To find the class nearest to you, call 412.431.4449 or visit the [website](#).

Renewable Energy

While energy efficiency improvements are always the first-step to decreasing your carbon footprint and reducing energy bills, installing renewable energy generation systems can also be a factor in living more sustainably. Penn Future is an organization that provides information to homeowners and businesses interested in installing solar or wind energy systems on their property [here](#).

Residents and businesses wishing to install renewable energy equipment for electricity generation should consult with their electric utility as early as possible to ensure the technology to be installed is consistent with the electrical system in that area and will not cause any safety concerns. Within the City of Pittsburgh, more information and contacts can be found at Duquesne Light's Customer Generation [website](#), or by calling 412-393-4343.

For information on required permits to install within the City of Pittsburgh, residents and businesses should call the Department of City Planning at 412-255-2195.

You can also visit the website [here](#).



A 1.4 kW solar array on the roof of Cardinal Resources offices on the South Side

Energy Conservation

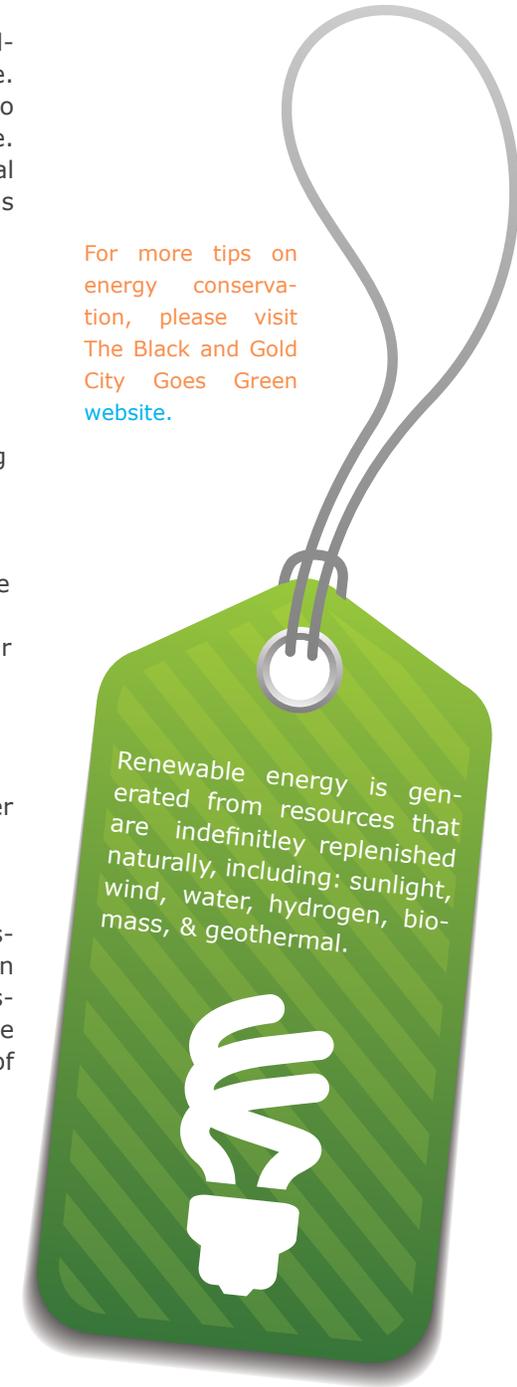
You do not need to install new technology to conserve energy in your home. There are simple steps you can take to utilize less energy in your daily routine. These steps will lessen your personal impact on climate change, as well as save you money on your electric bills:

- Wash only full loads of dishes or laundry
- Air dry your clothes instead of running the dryer
- Turn off your computer and monitor when they are not being used
- Make sure to turn off all lights when you leave a room
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use
- In old or drafty houses, seal your windows to keep cold air out in the winter months
- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher in the summer and a few degrees lower in the winter
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees

Conservation Consultants Inc. is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization which provides information and assistance to individuals seeking to reduce energy use and use cleaner sources of energy.

More information is available on the [web](#) or by calling 412-431-4449

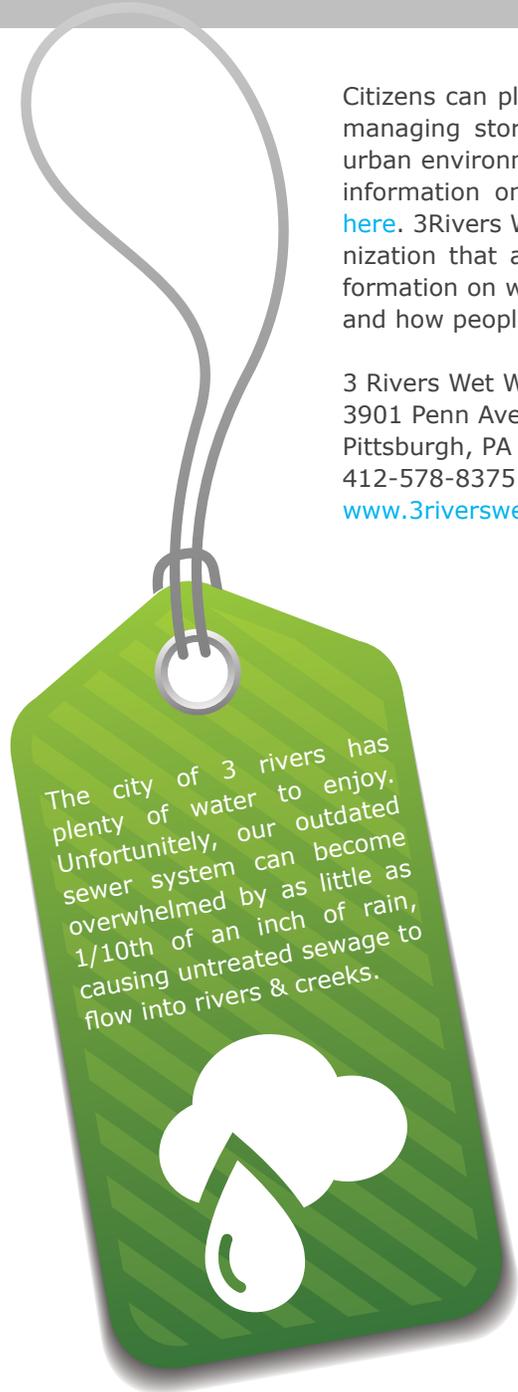
For more tips on energy conservation, please visit [The Black and Gold City Goes Green website](#).



Stormwater Management

Citizens can play an important role in managing stormwater in Pittsburgh's urban environment. The City provides information on what citizens can do [here](#). 3Rivers Wet Weather is an organization that also provides useful information on why stormwater matters and how people can help.

3 Rivers Wet Weather
3901 Penn Avenue, Bldg. #3
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-578-8375
www.3riverswetweather.org/



The city of 3 rivers has plenty of water to enjoy. Unfortunately, our outdated sewer system can become overwhelmed by as little as 1/10th of an inch of rain, causing untreated sewage to flow into rivers & creeks.



Rain barrels are a popular way to reduce runoff and capture water that can be stored and used later for gardening and landscaping. For more information about building your own rain barrel, visit the Pennsylvania Resources Council on the [web](#) or call 412-488-7490 ext. 247.

Allegheny County residents may also purchase rain barrels through Nine Mile Run Watershed Association.

To learn more, visit the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association on the [web](#) or call 412-371-8779.

Sustainable Transportation



Public Transportation

The City of Pittsburgh enjoys convenient public transportation provided by the Port Authority of Allegheny County. For bus routes and schedules, please visit the Port Authority [website](#) or call 412-442-2000.



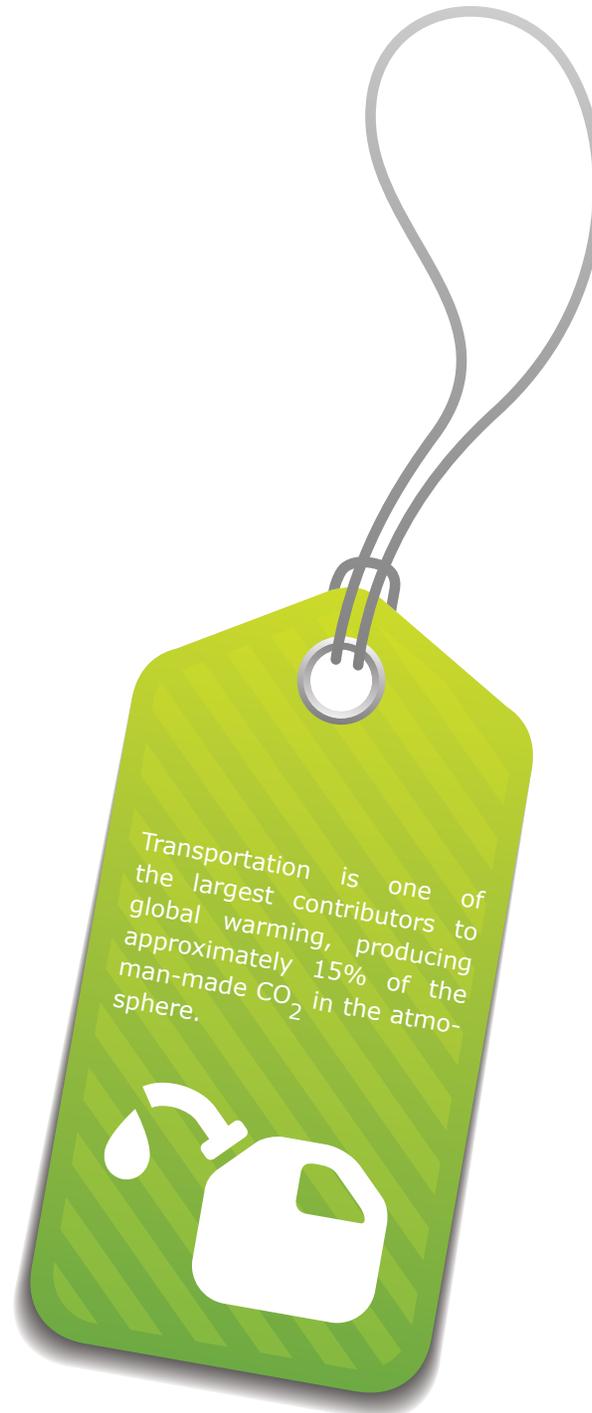
Bike

Bike Pittsburgh is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to "establishing Pittsburgh as a city that is increasingly safe, accessible, and friendly to bicycle transportation." Bike Pittsburgh offers tips about bike safety and convenience, in addition to a comprehensive map of Pittsburgh which includes all bike trails, and best routes for commuting. For more information, visit the [website](#) or call 412-325-4334.



Carpool

Take turns driving to work with your neighbors or co-workers. You will save money on gas, as well as lower carbon emissions. Need to find a carpool? To find others in your area visit the [website](#) or call 1-888-819-6110.



Sustainable Food

Buying locally grown food is not only beneficial to the region's economy but environmentally sustainable. Massive amounts of energy are wasted in the processes of packaging and transporting food around the country and the world. Help the local economy and the global environment: buy local!

The City of Pittsburgh offers more than 10 Farmers' Market locations during the summer months. To find the location and hours of operation most convenient for you, visit the Citiparks [website](#) or call 412-255-2539.

The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) provides information on the importance of local agriculture and where you can buy locally produced or organic foods close to you home.

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
Western Regional Office
650 Smithfield Street, Suite 1160
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-697-0411
www.pasafarming.org



Getting Involved

Are you interested in having an energy audit performed on your home or business to learn how much energy you consume and how to save energy?

Conservation Consultants Inc. (CCI)

64 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-431-4449
www.ccicenter.org

Community Design Center of Pittsburgh (CDCP)

938 Penn Avenue, 6th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-391-4144
www.cdcp.org

Are you interested in learning about green buildings and environmentally-friendly products for buildings?

Green Building Alliance (GBA)

333 East Carson Street, Suite 331
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-431-0709
www.gbapgh.org
www.pa-greenbuildingproducts.org

Would you like to be more involved in Pittsburgh's biking scene, working towards greater acceptance and safety of bicyclists?

Bike Pittsburgh

33 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-325-4334
www.bike-pgh.org

Would you like to receive monthly updates about what you can do to be more sustainable and track your personal process?

The Black and Gold City Goes Green

425 6th Avenue, Suite 2770
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-258-6680
www.blackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com

Are you looking to recycle old building materials, Freon appliances, or buy used building materials?

Construction Junction

214 North Lexington Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-243-5025
www.constructionjunction.org

Are you wondering how to responsibly dispose of hard to recycle items, like computers and appliances, or household hazardous waste, like paints and chemicals?

Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC)

64 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-488-7490
www.prc.org

Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force

412-488-7452
www.swpahhw.org/home.html

Are you interested in learning more about how to make your business more sustainable?

Sustainable Pittsburgh

425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1335
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
www.sustainablepittsburgh.org



Image courtesy of GTECH

Would you like to learn more about sustainable gardening and landscaping?

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
One Schenley Park
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-622-6914

<http://phipps.conservatory.org/classes-and-programs/adult-programs/index.aspx>

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to participate in an anti-litter campaign?

Citizens Against Litter
www.citizensagainstlitter.org/

Allegheny Cleanways
33 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-381-1301
www.alleghenycleanways.org

Would you like to get involved in the Mayor's Green Up Pittsburgh initiative?

Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl
Neighborhood Initiatives Coordinator
512 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-255-4765
www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/assets/08_green_up_app.doc

Are you interested in cleaning up and preserving Pittsburgh's riverfronts?

Friends of the Riverfront
33 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-488-0212
www.friendsoftheriverfront.org

Would you like to get involved with preserving, restoring and revitalizing Pittsburgh's parks?

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
2000 Technology Drive, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-682-7275
www.pittsburghparks.org



Are you willing to help plant more trees throughout the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County or become a Tree Tender to care for City street trees?

Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest
3101 Penn Avenue, Suite 201
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-362-6360
www.pittsburghforest.org

TreeVitalize Pittsburgh
800 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-586-2396
www.treevitalizepgh.org

Contact Us

For additional questions regarding environmental activities in the City of Pittsburgh, please contact:

City of Pittsburgh

Office of Sustainability and Energy
Efficiency

637 City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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Sustainability Coordinator
412-255-2254

lindsay.baxter@city.pittsburgh.pa.us

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Energy and Utilities Manager
412-255-2255

james.sloss@city.pittsburgh.pa.us



PITTSBURGH
A MOST LIVABLE CITY