

# Greater Pittsburgh Center of Excellence on High Performance Building

## What is an International Center of Excellence on High Performance Buildings?

- ▶ Established by the United Nations, the Centers of Excellence are a network of organizations that create healthy, affordable, and resilient places for all residents
- ▶ Pittsburgh will become **the 2nd Center of Excellence in the world**, following Vancouver, New York City, and Ireland
- ▶ The Center creates tangible solutions to the UN Sustainable development goals, including sustainable community development, inclusive economic growth, affordable and clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and responsible manufacturing

## What programs will the Center conduct?

- ▶ **Education & Technical Trainings:** Train architects, engineers, planners, contractors, and tradespeople in international best practices for sustainable construction, design, and deep energy reduction
- ▶ **Conferences & Knowledge Network:** Gather leaders in government, business, and academia to identify challenges and best practices to high performance building
- ▶ **Technical Assistance & Innovation:** Provide direct expertise to projects implementing new technologies or building methods, in addition to creating demonstration projects for early stage products and financing models
- ▶ **Research:** Collaborate with local universities and companies to develop innovative building policies, technologies, and finance mechanisms
- ▶ **Policy & Regulations:** Advocate for changes in local and state policy, including building codes, zoning incentives, energy regulation, and climate and resilience strategies

## Why should Western Pennsylvania host a Center of Excellence?

- ▶ Western Pennsylvania is a leader in building innovation and sustainable construction, and hosts internationally certified buildings such as Phipps Conservatory's Center for Sustainable Landscapes and the Frick Environmental Center
- ▶ Pennsylvania ranks 10th in the nation for the most clean energy jobs, 46% of which are in the construction industry. Clean energy now employs more than double the amount of workers than the state's entire fossil fuel industry
- ▶ Pittsburgh has the largest 2030 District in the world, with more than 750 buildings (92.2 million square feet) committed to 50% reduction in energy use, water consumption, and transportation emissions by the year 2030
- ▶ Buildings are a focus of both local and regional policy, including the 2030 Challenge, the City of Pittsburgh's commitment to 100% renewable energy, the Climate Action Plan, p4, OnePGH and Equity Indicators, in addition to widespread commitments amongst non-profits and businesses to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

### Why were these centers created?

- ▶ Buildings consume over 70% of the electrical power generated and are responsible for 40% of CO2 emissions and 40% of primary energy, and are responsible for 39% of global greenhouse gas emissions
- ▶ As part of its High Performance Building Initiative, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), a regional commission including North America, created an international network of cities to implement best practices in building design and performance

### Who will the center work with?

- ▶ **Potential partners include:** industry associations, governments, researchers, trades, workforce development programs, nonprofits, utilities, and expert companies
- ▶ **Key audiences include:** building owners and developers, architects, engineers, contractors, planning officials, policymakers, tradespeople, academics, and manufacturers

### Who is Green Building Alliance (GBA)?

- ▶ For the past 25 years, Green Building Alliance (GBA) has been Western Pennsylvania's leading authority on sustainable building design and construction, with particular expertise in education and data and performance evaluation
- ▶ GBA equips professionals, educators, and policymakers to catalyze systemic change in the built environment through programs like the Green & Healthy Schools Academy and the Pittsburgh 2030 District

### What is GBA's role?

- ▶ GBA will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations to lead the funding and development of the Center
- ▶ GBA directs the Center's strategic development, beginning with focused advisory board informed by sector specific advisory committees.

### How can you become a founding partner?

To learn how your organization can join this historic initiative, please contact:

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