



## GSI Partners News

April 2016

### ADVOCACY

Goal: Be proactive and reactive on topics that impact the GSI Partners, the growth of the local green stormwater infrastructure industry and innovation.

*Administrative sub-committee* works to ensure that GSI is being facilitated as much as possible.

Chair: Sara Poindexter, Rodriguez Consulting

Co-Chair: Alan Decktor, Pennoni

Secretary: Veronica Anderson, Rodriguez Consulting

*Legislative sub-committee* works to ensure that GSI is incentivized as much as possible.

Chair: Melissa Muroff, Roofmeadow

Secretary: open

1. Released: *The Economic Impact of Green City, Clean Waters: The First Five Years*. This highly anticipated report, commissioned by SBN's GSI Partners, measures the local economic impact of the first five years of Green City, Clean Waters (GCCW). Findings show that GSI Partners experienced double-digit annual revenue growth from 2013 to 2014, and conservatively represent an annual economic impact of almost \$60 million within the City of Philadelphia alone, supporting 430 local jobs and generating nearly \$1 million in local tax revenues. Conservative projections estimate that, over the life of GCCW, public and private investments in GSI are expected to produce a \$3.1 billion impact in the Philadelphia economy, supporting roughly 1,000 jobs per year and generating \$2 million per year in local tax revenues.

SBN staff briefed City Council on key findings, and will continue to use the report as a tool to advocate for strong city-wide commitment to GCCW, as well as to point to the degree to which environmental policy can catalyze local economic growth.

2. SBN was selected as a member of Mayor Kenney's Transition Team. Serving on the Sustainability and Environment Committee, SBN engaged a diverse group of stakeholders to make substantive recommendations to the Kenney administration regarding the strong continuation of *Green City, Clean Waters* and its triple bottom line goals.

SBN's recommendations regarding strong city-wide commitment and coordination made it into the final report:

*"It will take the commitment of many of our City agencies to successfully drive forward such an ambitious, high-stakes plan....GCCW, however, is largely still seen as the sole responsibility of the Philadelphia Water Department. Mayor Kenney should strengthen the administration's commitment to this critical program by calling for an integrated city agency partnership in meeting GCCW goals. Within his first year, he should determine the ability of all city agencies to contribute towards the fulfillment of GCCW. This commitment would establish GCCW as a citywide initiative and a task force that will involve multiple stakeholders across the city, state, and federal level."*

*"By July 1, 2016: Establish Green City, Clean Waters as a citywide priority"*

*"By January 1, 2017: Task all City departments and agencies with contributing to the success of Green City, Clean Waters."*

Read the full report here: <https://alpha.phila.gov/media/20160216085049/transitionreport.pdf>



3. In January, SBN welcomed Debra McCarty as the new Water Commissioner, and requested a briefing to share more about SBN, the GSI Partners, our work to support *Green City, Clean Waters*, and our goals for continuing a collaborative relationship with PWD towards this end. We continue to follow up on this request, now in partnership with several other organizational supporters of GCCW, including the NRDC and PennFuture.
4. Both Advocacy Committees have begun implementing their finalized their work plans.

*Administrative Advocacy* is looking at Interagency Coordination: “How, through coordination and collaboration on capital projects, approval processes, and code alignment, can GSI be better facilitated?”

*Legislative Advocacy* is looking at incentives: “How, through new and improved ‘carrots and sticks,’ can GSI be better incentivized in the private sector?”

Each committee will produce a document by the end of the year detailing their findings and making recommendations accordingly. These documents will be part of a larger report SBN’s Policy and Advocacy Department will produce that will assess the state of the sustainable economy in Philadelphia. This report will support SBN’s ongoing advocacy efforts to advance a more local and sustainable economy in the region.

*Committees each meet monthly; terms are one year. Contact [anna@sbnphiladelphia.org](mailto:anna@sbnphiladelphia.org) with your interest in joining either of these committees.*

5. SBN’s Policy and Advocacy Manager continues to convene monthly entrepreneurs’ roundtables with elected officials and other decision makers. This is a unique opportunity for our members to directly interact with policy makers on issues that affect the growth of their businesses.

Contact [saleem@sbnphiladelphia.org](mailto:saleem@sbnphiladelphia.org) with your interest in participating at one or more of these breakfasts.

#### **MONITORING GRANT PILOT PROGRAM**

Goal: Develop a pilot grant program to support the private sector to collect data on the performance of private green stormwater infrastructure projects.

1. Our consultants, Meliora and Andropogon, completed a series of stakeholder interviews with PWD and DEP, engineers and landscape architects, landscape contractors, academia, and developers and property owners. Questions were developed for each stakeholder group to gain input on a variety of considerations, including what data should be collected and with what frequency and rigor, and what the implications would be if a project was determined to be over (or under) performing.

The team is currently researching relevant monitoring programs as well as data platforms.

We look forward to launching the final pilot grant program.



### EXCELLENCE IN GSI AWARDS CEREMONY

Goal: Celebrate and elevate GSI projects in the Greater Philadelphia Area, the triple bottom line (TBL) benefits of GSI, and the multiple project partners who make these projects happen.

Thursday March 31, 2016

WHYY Public Media Commons

6 pm – 9 pm

1. The inaugural event was a huge success! Thank you to each of you for helping to make it so!

Close to 150 of the region's industry leaders – past and present – came together to celebrate the incredible GSI projects, and the teams behind them, that are exemplifying the triple bottom line.

#### **Winner Public Projects:**

##### **Lea Elementary School**

Client: West Philly Coalition of Neighborhood Schools (WPCNS), School District of Philadelphia (SDP)

Planning/Design Team: SALT Design Studio, Meliora Design, International Consultants, Inc.

Construction Team: ThinkGreen, LLC

Maintenance Team: SDP and WPCNS

Monitoring Team: Philadelphia Water

#### **Winner Private Projects:**

##### **Stroud Water Research Center**

Client: Stroud Water Research Center

Planning/Design Team: Meliora Design, Andropogon Associates, BioHabitats, M2 Architecture, Bruce E. Brooks & Associates

Construction Team: Nason Construction, ThinkGreen, LLC

Monitoring Team: Stroud Water Research Center

#### **Winner Early Adopters:**

##### **Morris Arboretum**

Client: Morris Arboretum, University of Pennsylvania

Planning/Design Team: Andropogon Associates, Cahill Associates

Maintenance Team: Morris Arboretum, University of Pennsylvania

#### **Winner Research:**

##### **The Impact of GSI Installation on the Surrounding Health and Safety**

Lead Research Institution: USDA Forest Service, Northern Field Station (Michelle Kondo, Ph.D.)

Collaborating Research Institutions: University of Pennsylvania, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology

#### **Winner Leadership:**

##### **Howard Neukrug**

A huge thank you to our event sponsors:

*Gold Level:* Econsult Solutions

*Silver Level:* AKRF, Brandywine Realty Trust, Pennoni Associates

*Bronze Level:* Aquarius Supply, Belgard, Cedar Run Landscapes, The RBA Group, Rodriguez Consulting

### GSI OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COURSE

The GSI Operations and Maintenance Course is targeted at landscape professionals seeking to strengthen or expand their service portfolio in public and/or private GSI Operations and Maintenance.

1. No changes to report.



### **PWD'S RAIN CHECK PROGRAM**

Rain Check is PWD's residential stormwater management program, offering free and subsidized green infrastructure tools to all Philadelphia residents. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society manages the program with support from SBN via the GSI Partners.

SBN manages the sub-contractor network, working with small local firms to assess homes as well as design and install various stormwater tools. We also help to ensure that the processes and policies serve the program as a whole as well as the small local businesses on the contract.

1. The Rain Check team has hired 9 (!) new sub-contractors for the design and installation of residential rain gardens and porous pavement projects, the installation of rain barrels and downspout planters, and other consultant services.

We are excited to continue to grow this program available to all Philadelphia residents.

To find out more on becoming a subcontractor contractor, contact [anna@sbnphiladelphia.org](mailto:anna@sbnphiladelphia.org)

To find out more about Rain Check for your Philadelphia home, visit [www.phillywatersheds.org/raincheck](http://www.phillywatersheds.org/raincheck)

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS**

The GSI Partners offer continuing education grants to members to support the professional development of our members and their staff. Members are eligible for up to \$5,000 per business, per year to attend conferences, courses, certificate programs, etc. that will help their business grow and remain competitive in the GSI industry.

1. No changes to report.

### **BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Goal: Support the growth of the GSI Partners network and provide value through content and networking.

Chair: Lee Armillei, GreenWeaver Landscapes

Secretary: Jeanne Weber, Philadelphia Green Roofs

1. Committee has begun implementing their finalized their work plan, which includes updating GSI Partners collateral, identifying new members, and developing a strong calendar of events.

*Committees each meet monthly; terms are one year. Contact [anna@sbnphiladelphia.org](mailto:anna@sbnphiladelphia.org) with your interest in joining a committee.*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Welcome to our newest members: ThinkGreen, LLC., Fine Garden Creations, and NativeREALM.

*Join our efforts to advance the local GSI industry and connect with other industry professionals in the region. If you are not yet a member, join now! If you are a member, help us grow by referring us to other local businesses committed to GSI.*

[gsipartners.sbnphiladelphia.org](http://gsipartners.sbnphiladelphia.org) or [anna@sbnphiladelphia.org](mailto:anna@sbnphiladelphia.org)



**GSI PARTNERS™**  
REIMAGINING STORMWATER

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**ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA**

The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) is a non-profit membership organization working to build a thriving local and sustainable economy in the region. SBN's members are locally-owned businesses committed to doing well through environmentally and/or socially-focused enterprises. Through their products, services, and/or internal practices, SBN's members exemplify how business can be a force for good.

**ABOUT THE GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE (GSI) PARTNERS**

The GSI Partners, a signature program of SBN, is a growing network of local businesses in the green stormwater infrastructure space, from engineers, landscape architects, and green roof companies, to contractors, maintenance firms, and material suppliers. Through advocacy, capacity-building, and collaborations, we are working to advance the local GSI industry and GSI innovation, thereby amplifying the triple bottom line impact of Philadelphia's *Green City, Clean Waters* plan. Our efforts are focused on facilitating and incentivizing GSI as much as possible and ensuring that as much of the public and private investments being catalyzed by the plan remain as local as possible.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF SBN AND THE GSI PARTNERS!**

[gsipartners.sbnphiladelphia.org](http://gsipartners.sbnphiladelphia.org)

or contact Anna Shipp, Project Manager, at [anna@sbnphiladelphia.org](mailto:anna@sbnphiladelphia.org)  
to join and/or to refer a potential member