



To: Our members and other local business owners, elected officials, and other stakeholders
Re: Announcing SBN's Policy Agenda, Guiding our Advocacy Efforts over the Next Five Years
From: The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN)
Contact: Anna Shipp, Executive Director
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SBN has remained our region's leading advocacy and membership organization for over 20 years, supporting thousands of diverse local independent businesses that practice the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profitability. I am proud to share SBN's updated [policy agenda](#), guiding our advocacy focus for the next five years.

There has been no point in our lifetimes that more loudly reinforces the importance of small and local businesses to our economy, the impacts of climate change, and the gross inequities that communities of color continue to face. The COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent economic crisis, as well as increasing calls for climate action and social justice, present an unprecedented opportunity not just to restore our economy but to completely rebuild it for the better by implementing reforms and policies that prioritize the creation and growth of local independent businesses, equity, and climate resilience. In developing our policy agenda, SBN engaged its membership and other stakeholders to help identify policy solutions necessary for local businesses to grow and thrive. Our agenda is a call to action for local, state, and federal policymakers to take on the changes needed to achieve a just, green, and thriving economy.

Throughout the pandemic, we have called on policymakers to act and address the urgent needs of our members and the entire local independent business community. SBN has already seen several key policy victories, including:

- Additional funding and improved flexibility to use funds and expanded eligibility of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).
- Additional resources under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program.
- Direct grants to restaurants under the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.
- A moratorium against commercial evictions for restaurants within the City of Philadelphia.
- Additional financial resources directed through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).

These achievements provide a vital lifeline to local independent businesses and serve as first steps toward stabilizing and rebuilding an equitable economic ecosystem. More still needs to be done. SBN will continue to advocate for policies that ensure businesses receive relief and recovery support, remove barriers to their ability to start, grow, and thrive, and advance proven growth industries like renewable energy and energy efficiency, green stormwater infrastructure, and local food systems.

A socially just, climate-resilient, and thriving local economy requires immediate action. SBN has a long history of advocating for localism, environmental responsibility, and economic prosperity for all. We are proud to continue our legacy on behalf of the tens of thousands of diverse local independent businesses in our region, and we'll continue to lead the way toward an equitable and climate-resilient economic ecosystem.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AS', written over a light blue circular scribble.

Anna Shipp
Executive Director
Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia