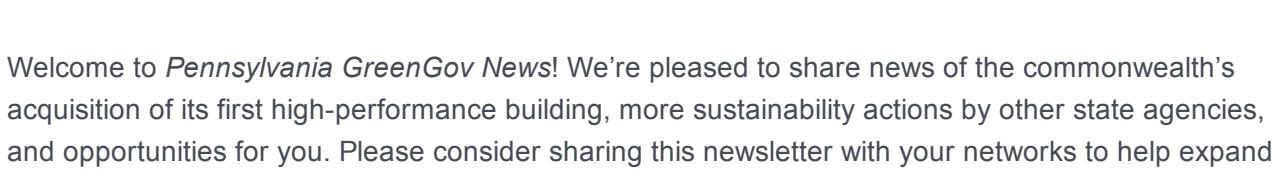




Pennsylvania GreenGov News



March 2022

Welcome to *Pennsylvania GreenGov News!* We're pleased to share news of the commonwealth's acquisition of its first high-performance building, more sustainability actions by other state agencies, and opportunities for you. Please consider sharing this newsletter with your networks to help expand the knowledge base as we work together to reduce emissions in Pennsylvania.

— Mark Hand, Director, [GreenGov Council](#)

GreenGov Council News

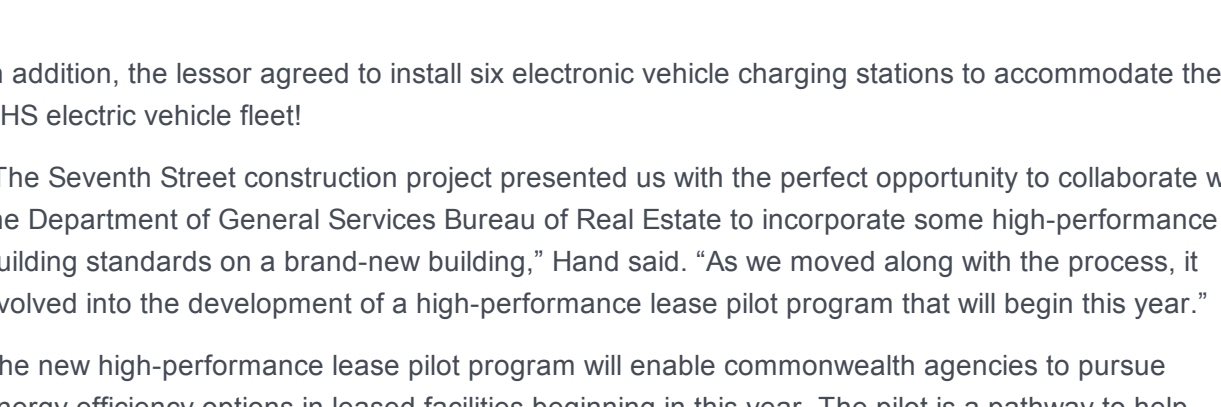


Commonwealth Takes Receipt of First Building Constructed Using High-Performance Building Standards

The GreenGov Council is excited to announce the completion of the commonwealth's newly constructed, 120,000 square-foot, 3-story building located at 2525 N. 7th Street in Harrisburg that will house more than 900 commonwealth employees from the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of Information Technology who currently occupy multiple facilities in the Harrisburg area.

Thanks to the input of the GreenGov Council, the energy modeling of the building envelope supported decisions for optimization of wall and roof insulation products and the selection of white roofing that will reflect solar radiation away from the building and reduce heat gains when the building is in cooling mode.

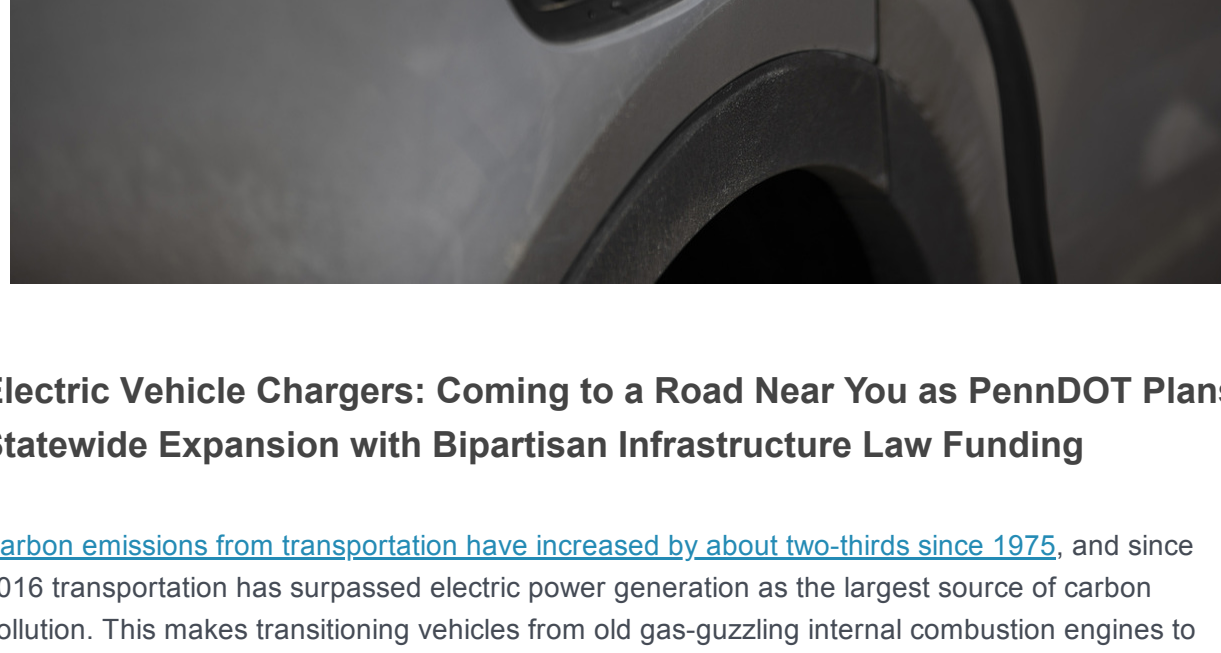
The new space features a range of energy conservation measures, including LED lighting, water conservation, site design to manage glare and heat gain, and the use of recycled materials where practical. For example, extended-length entry vestibules will limit unconditioned air entering through the front door, which will reduce heating and air conditioning costs. In addition, the aluminum windows are made of 95% recycled content, and the window glazing contains 75% recycled content.



In addition, the lessor agreed to install six electronic vehicle charging stations to accommodate the DHS electric vehicle fleet!

"The Seventh Street construction project presented us with the perfect opportunity to collaborate with the Department of General Services Bureau of Real Estate to incorporate some high-performance building standards on a brand-new building," Hand said. "As we moved along with the process, it evolved into the development of a high-performance lease pilot program that will begin this year."

The new high-performance lease pilot program will enable commonwealth agencies to pursue energy efficiency options in leased facilities beginning in this year. The pilot is a pathway to help solve the lessor/tenant arrangement which often restricts energy investment and upgrades to facilities. As part of leading-by-example, the commonwealth is seeking a portfolio of both owned and lease spaces over time meeting high performance and sustainable criteria. The GreenGov Council is looking forward to highlighting the carbon reduction achievements of our lessor community, as we work together to make these spaces more efficient, cost effective, and sustainable.



Electric Vehicle Chargers: Coming to a Road Near You as PennDOT Plans Statewide Expansion with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

[Carbon emissions from transportation have increased by about two-thirds since 1975](#), and since 2016 transportation has surpassed electric power generation as the largest source of carbon pollution. This makes transitioning vehicles from old gas-guzzling internal combustion engines to alternative fuel technologies one of the most consequential strategies to addressing the global climate crisis.

Electric vehicles (EV) have significantly grown in popularity and are a practical option to transitioning passenger vehicles and even commercial fleets. Thanks to fuel savings and fewer maintenance requirements, EV operating costs are 50-70 percent less than their gasoline-powered counterparts. However, to successfully serve this next generation of transportation technology, roadside battery charging facilities must expand in tandem with the growth of EV market.

Pennsylvania currently has over 2,500 public chargers at over 1,000 locations, viewable on [511pa.com](#). With the recent passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, over \$7.5 billion will be available nationwide for further expansion of the EV charging network. Over five years, Pennsylvania will have access to \$171.5 million in formula funds and \$2.5 billion in grant funding opportunities to build charging facilities along our roads and in our communities.

Formula funds are primarily focused on developing Interstate corridors specifically designated as Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) with a robust fast charging network. PennDOT's primary focus for funding will be to build out the AFCs until federal requirements are satisfied. In addition, a discretionary grant program provides \$1.25 billion for development of the AFCs and another \$1.25 billion for community fueling projects. Formula funds may also be used to build charging equipment on any public road or in any publicly accessible location once the federal government certifies the AFCs as fully built out.

PennDOT has developed [EV Equity Guiding Principles](#) to ensure expansion of the EV charging infrastructure and the availability of EV purchase incentives and payment options for underserved and vulnerable communities.

For Pennsylvania to receive the formula funds, PennDOT must submit an annual statewide plan. The Department is developing its plan, including how it will program its dollars, to meet the U.S. Department of Transportation's August 1 deadline. PennDOT anticipates planning to include robust public involvement, along with the collaboration of fellow state agencies through our Statewide EV Task Force.

DEP Seeks Industry, Government, and Community Input for Fleet Electrification Funding Program

DEP seeks expert input for development of a pilot incentive program to spur electrification of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets in Pennsylvania.

We envision funding a pilot program that will support local governments, businesses, and organizations in converting a portion of their diesel- or gasoline-powered truck and/or bus fleet to electric.

We welcome perspectives and ideas from those with expertise in medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle manufacturing and supply, EV charging, fleet management, Environmental Justice, and other areas. Your input will help establish the technical, economic, and operational parameters of the pilot program.

Suggestions on opportunities or best practices for success in vehicle and fueling technology, vehicle type and class, use scenarios, fleet types, and performance metrics are especially welcome. We also value your ideas on ways to prioritize fleets that operate in or significantly impact Environmental Justice communities.

To participate, see the [Request for Information](#) in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. You're welcome to respond to any or all questions.

Thank you in advance for contributing your views. And please consider sharing your networks.

We anticipate this pilot program will be offered as part of the [Driving PA Forward program](#), funded by Pennsylvania's share of the national settlement from the Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal.

Agency Shout Out

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission: Fueling an Organizational Culture of Sustainability Awareness and Action

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Sustainability Committee was established in 2020 as part of the commission's commitment to operate and maintain a sustainable, restorative roadway system. The committee works to build an organization-wide culture where all initiatives consider the three pillars of sustainability — economic, environmental, and social impacts.

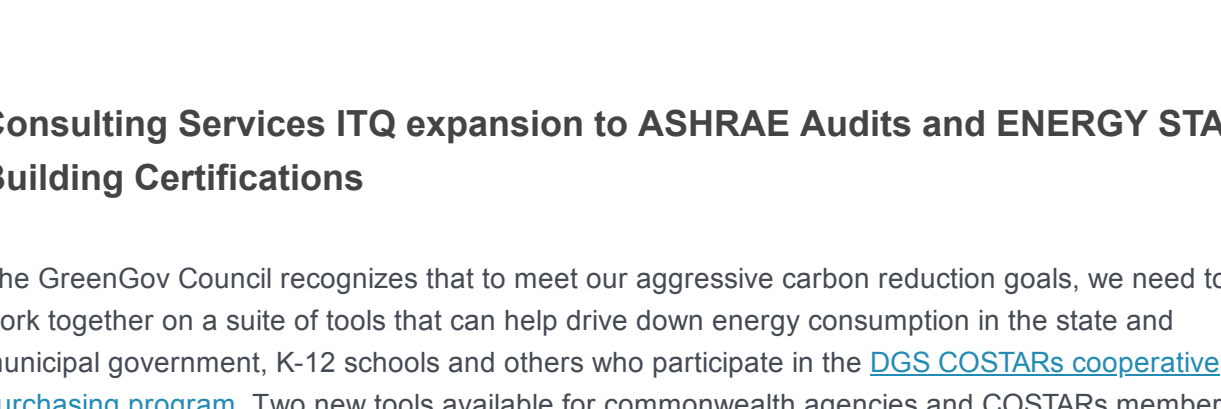
The Sustainability Committee, along with the GreenGov Council, adopted the [United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) as its blueprint to achieve a more sustainable approach to work where opportunities exist. The committee's core responsibilities include:

- Promotion of Sustainability Committee activities at meetings, workshops, and conferences to improve collaborative culture within and outside the organization.
- Workforce development through specialized training and a focus on local and national sustainability initiatives.
- Establishment of core principles and goals to guide decision making and policy development.
- Development of programmatic approaches and milestones to advance sustainability.
- Identification of funding opportunities to support the sustainability plan.

As part of an initiative to raise awareness and collaboration internally, a Sustainability Questionnaire was developed to support project highlights, including a Sustainability Scale to quantify where projects are measuring on the key pillars of sustainability. Project highlight articles and scale ratings will be featured in the commission's monthly employee e-newsletter, "Mileposts."

In addition, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has been working to educate partners and the public about their commitment and work toward a sustainable future. One of the most notable projects covered in the *Sustainability at the PA Turnpike Commission: 2021 Highlight Report* was construction of the first microgrid being used to supply power to the commission's Greensburg Maintenance Facility in Westmoreland County. The microgrid supplies all the electrical needs of the facility campus, and the excess energy produced is provided back to the grid for additional revenue generation.

To read the 2021 highlight report and learn more about the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's sustainability efforts, see [Our Commitment to Sustainability](#). If you have questions or would like more information, please email Sustainability@paturpike.com.

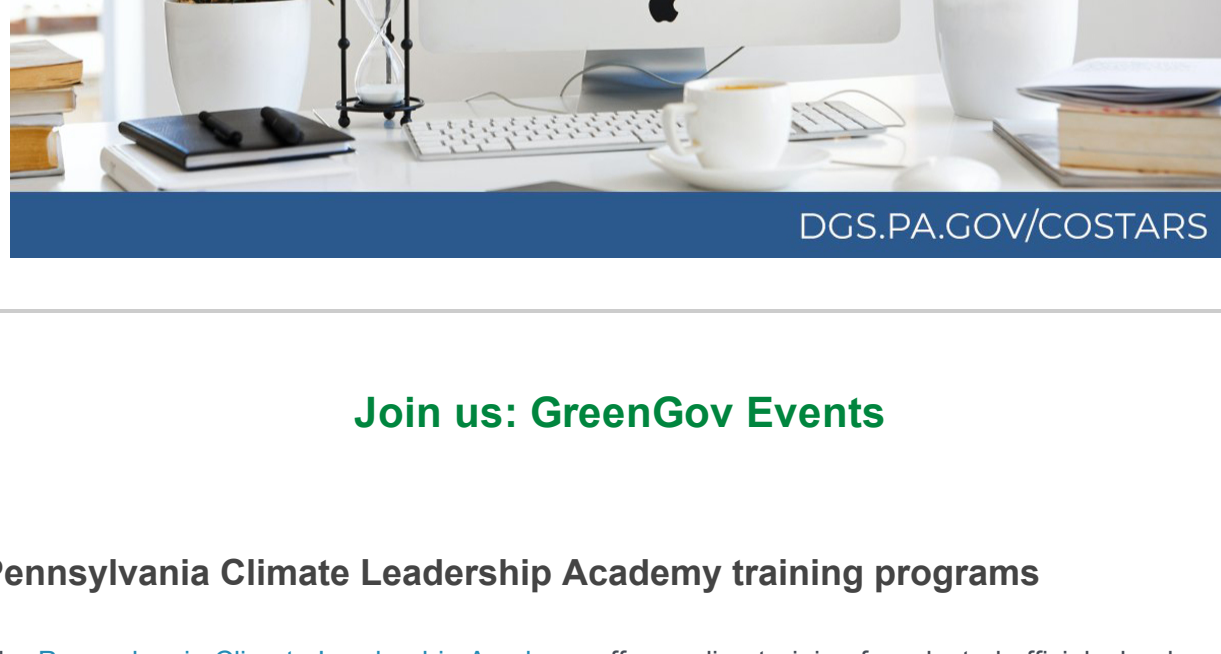


Resources to Help Your Effort

Consulting Services ITQ expansion to ASHRAE Audits and ENERGY STAR Building Certifications

The GreenGov Council recognizes that to meet our aggressive carbon reduction goals, we need to work together on a suite of tools that can help drive down energy consumption in the state and municipal government, K-12 schools and others who participate in the [DGS COSTARs cooperative purchasing program](#). Two new tools available for commonwealth agencies and COSTARs members include a stream-lined process to procure ASHRAE energy audits and EPA ENERGY STAR Buildings Certifications.

The Pennsylvania Department of General Services recently issued an Invitation to Qualify, or ITQ, seeking small businesses interested in conducting Commercial Building Energy Audits and evaluating facilities for ENERGY STAR Building Certifications. [Read more about the ITQ Solicitation here.](#)



DGS.PA.GOV/COSTARS

Join us: GreenGov Events

Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy training programs

The [Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy](#) offers online training for: elected officials; leaders and staff in state and local government agencies; executive and senior personnel in critical infrastructure organizations; leaders in business, industry and agricultural sectors; and leaders of nonprofit organizations and academic institutions.

Climate Leadership Activator Series: This three-part series starts on May 12. Learn more about the opportunity and [register here](#).

Certified Climate Change Professional Credential Training Programs: The CC-P Credential Training Programs offers two upcoming enrollment opportunities: Day classes begin on April 25, and evening classes start on May 3. Learn more about CC-P and [register here](#).

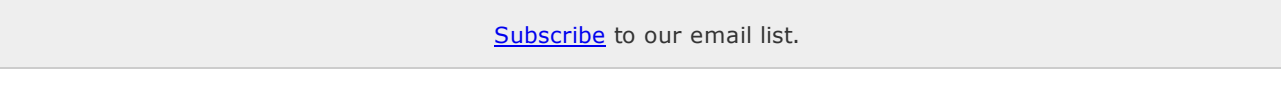
Sustainability Webinar Series

Webinars are free and open to the public. Please [complete this survey](#) to indicate which presentations you plan to attend. We'll send out Microsoft Teams meeting calendar invitations to all interested attendees for their selected webinars. Webinars are sponsored by the GreenGov Council and Penn State University Sustainability Institute.

Household Carbon Reduction, Part 1: Energy Saving Utility Programs

Date: April 8, 2022 | 1:00-1:45 pm

Speaker: Joseph Sherrick, Supervisor, Technical Utility Services, Policy & Planning, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission



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