

PITTSBURGH 2030 DISTRICT

**2024 Annual
Progress Report**

PUBLISHED MAY 2025



**Green
Building
Alliance**



Statement of land acknowledgement

We recognize that the City of Pittsburgh and many of the 2030 District properties occupy the historic land of the Osage and Shawnee peoples.¹ We honor the past, present, and future people, community, and culture of the Osage and Shawnee peoples and express our gratitude for this land as we work to respect and care for it.

PITTSBURGH 2030 DISTRICT: BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE

Reflecting on the previous year, the concept of “resiliency” was universal. It has become a focus of emergency planning, property management,² insurance and financing, workforce development, and human health.^{3,4,5} Ever more frequent disasters, like Hurricane Helene in September and recent California wildfires, compound stresses on communities and cost hundreds of billions of dollars in damages and lost economic productivity,⁶ while dramatically threatening human health and safety.^{7,8} As the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) outlined last summer,³ **resiliency requires that your population, society, economy, and environment are supported and thriving.**

This requires strengthening against severe disasters and common stressors impacting Pennsylvanians. With local schools increasingly reverting to remote learning due to record-breaking heat days,⁹ it is unsurprising that schools statewide are investing in cooling systems, energy saving measures, and solar arrays to ensure learning stays on track, parents can work, and the health and wellbeing of children is protected. And heat isn’t our only challenge — heavy storms are dropping 60% more rain than they used to, creating a cadence of power outages, triggering landslides, and bringing record flooding to our area.¹⁰

Resiliency measures withstand other stressors: when our region’s electrical grid operator, PJM, enacts significant electricity price increases this year,¹¹ modernized buildings will be imperative to doing business. Good building “performance” — high-efficiency lighting, HVAC systems, and equipment, together with efficient structural elements such as windows, doors, siding and roofs — protects local business operations from grid outages and price shocks, and lessens the energy demand that triggers outages and price volatility in the first place.¹² This is resiliency: a mutually beneficial relationship wherein our own readiness and prevention strengthens the collective. Resiliency works hand in hand with net-zero strategies. Every holistically designed

building renovation, every kWh of electricity saved and ton of carbon avoided is helping to create cleaner, more livable communities even as it defends us from threats.

Resiliency planning prevents loss just as it fosters investment in widespread wellbeing. To quote UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell, resiliency has “massive transformational power beyond its risk mitigation functions ... Not only protecting people and economies, but also driving forward much more opportunity, equality, and prosperity.”⁵ This has always been the vision and impact of the 2030 District — it is a proven model for building resiliency at a community scale through a whole building approach. Buildings with modern systems, quality construction, renewable energy or energy storage, continue to help Pittsburgh thrive.

In the pages that follow, we are excited to celebrate both the Pittsburgh 2030 District partners’ successes in energy and emissions reduction as well as our other 2030 Districts. In Pittsburgh, we will spotlight some recent retrofits, system adjustments, and creative ways of incorporating water and energy resiliency into capital projects. We will learn about modernization of vacant storefronts in downtown New Kensington and a state grant award to rehabilitate their outdated city hall and save taxpayer dollars. We will recognize our partners’ economic investment and innovation that has inspired momentum across PA. As we look ahead to the last five years of our race to 2030, we are not slowing down. **Working together with you, GBA will amplify our vision across Pennsylvania, creating communities where every person can thrive.**



Ashley DiGregorio
Senior Director

ERIE

Est 2019

20 PARTNERS

172 BUILDINGS COMMITTED

9,330,000 SQUARE FEET COMMITTED



Touring energy efficient buildings in the Erie 2030 District

NEW KENSINGTON

Est 2024

4 PARTNERS

26 BUILDINGS COMMITTED

1,370,000 SQUARE FEET COMMITTED



New Kensington 2030 District Meeting at the Digital Foundry

PITTSBURGH

+ District Affiliates

Est 2012

108 PARTNERS

1,065 BUILDINGS COMMITTED

124,630,000 SQUARE FEET COMMITTED



Partners enjoying the Pittsburgh 2030 District Progress Report Reception in 2024

TOTAL PROGRESS

132

PARTNERS

1,263

BUILDINGS COMMITTED

135,300,000

SQUARE FEET COMMITTED

BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA

The success of the Pittsburgh 2030 District prompted the creation of the Erie 2030 District in 2019, and through several grant opportunities, GBA is expanding its work to build local resiliency in other communities across Pennsylvania. Last year, GBA secured funding through the West Penn Energy Fund to create a 2030 District in New Kensington. GBA is thrilled to support new partners and jumpstart energy efficiency projects in these communities, increasing economic resilience to price fluctuations and focusing on building projects that can withstand extreme weather events.

Enhancing Educational Offerings

GBA is constantly improving our services to better support our partners. This year, we are unveiling two new education courses: Energy Efficiency 101 and Intro to Capital Planning. Energy Efficiency 101 details actionable no- and low- cost energy and water efficiency measures that building owners and operators can quickly implement to reduce energy and save costs. Intro to Capital Planning will share information on multiple aspects of the capital planning process, including identifying and prioritizing projects, budgeting for capital improvements, and keeping plans updated throughout the year. With a special focus on smaller buildings, both courses are living documents that draw upon the experiences of our partners and service providers to inspire actionable roadmaps toward developing more resilient properties, neighborhoods, and communities.

THE 2030 DISTRICTS NETWORK

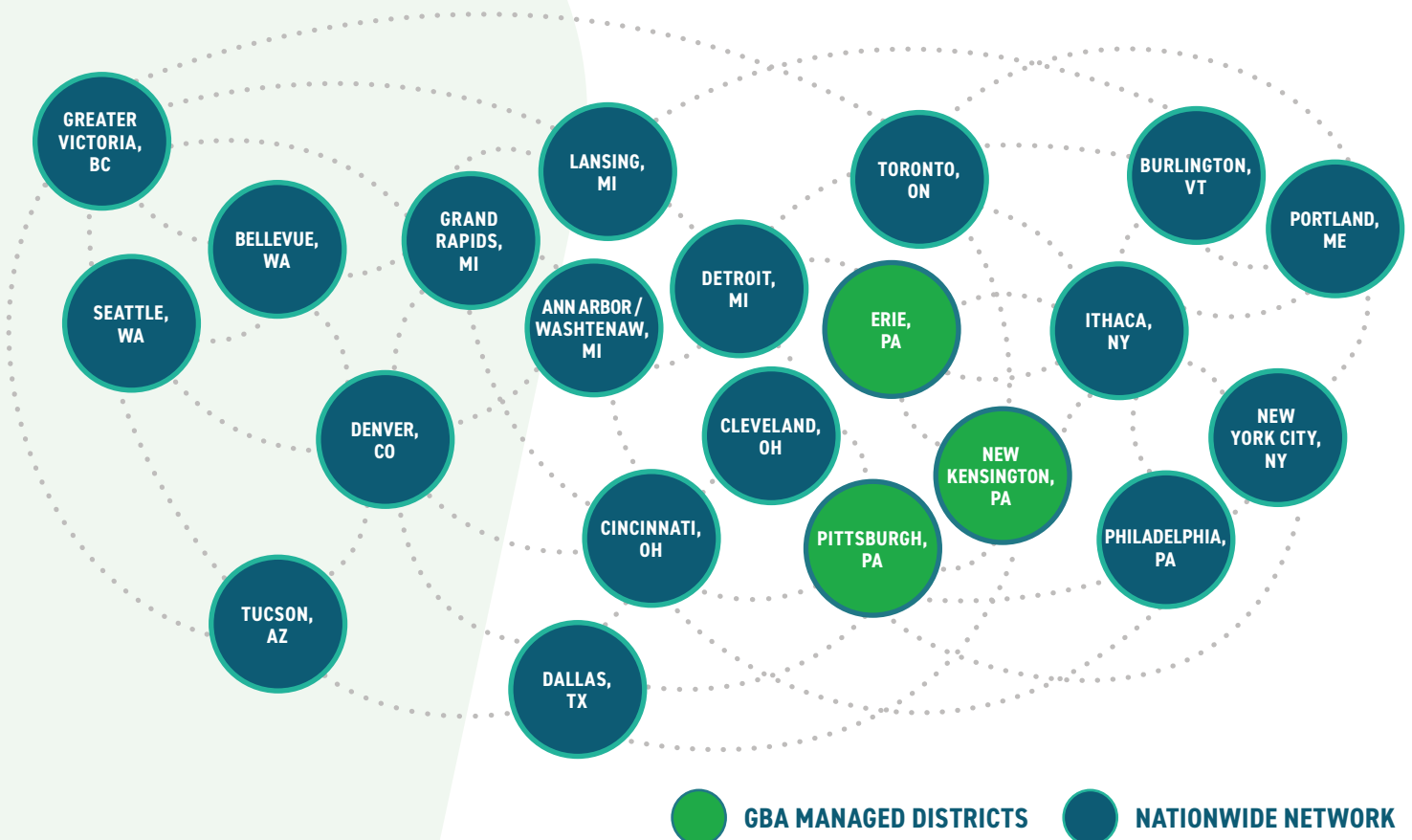
2030 Districts: A Performance-Based Model

According to the United Nations, building construction and operations account for 37% of energy-related carbon emissions.¹³ The 2030 District Challenge aligns targets for reducing building-based carbon emissions with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Property Partners join community organizations, utilities, designers, technology firms, financiers, and government officials to explore, test, and share a wide variety of approaches to reducing energy-related carbon emissions throughout the region.

Inspiring Leadership

The Pittsburgh 2030 District has set the standard for high-performance buildings. The District is a community of more than 130 organizations across numerous industries and sectors. Pittsburgh is a founding member of the 2030 Districts Network that includes 25 established 2030 Districts internationally, comprising more than 618 million square feet and 1,650 member organizations committed to the 2030 Challenge.¹⁴ As the Network's largest District, Pittsburgh demonstrates leadership in sustainable and high-performing buildings. The 2030 District model is fundamentally a model for building resiliency not only in the places we work, learn, and play, but also in the people who make up our community. It has helped ignite market demand for workers across the sector, helped to improve learning environments for students of all ages, and allowed neighborhoods to shape their visions for growth.

2030 DISTRICTS NETWORK



Beyond 2030: Accelerating to Zero

At the 26th Conference of Parties in Glasgow (COP26), Architecture 2030 warned, “If the world is to meet the 1.5°C carbon budget set in the 2015 Paris Agreement, we must **reduce CO₂ emissions in the entire [existing] built environment by 50–65% by 2030 and reach zero carbon by 2040.**”¹⁵ New buildings and major renovations must be designed for zero carbon immediately.

2024 was confirmed to be the new hottest year on record, surpassing the previous record set in 2023,¹⁶ and US emissions in 2024 remained roughly the same as the prior year.¹⁷ We need to redouble our efforts, reducing energy use and switching to and investing in renewable energy sources.

The Pittsburgh 2030 District is a great example of how the built environment can work towards decarbonization. The work of Property Partners in the Pittsburgh, Erie, and New Kensington 2030 Districts is contributing to reductions in emissions and to a cleaner, healthier future for our region.

**THE WORK OF
PROPERTY PARTNERS
IS CONTRIBUTING
TO REDUCTIONS
IN EMISSIONS AND
TO A CLEANER,
HEALTHIER FUTURE
FOR OUR REGION.**

2030 CHALLENGE GOALS

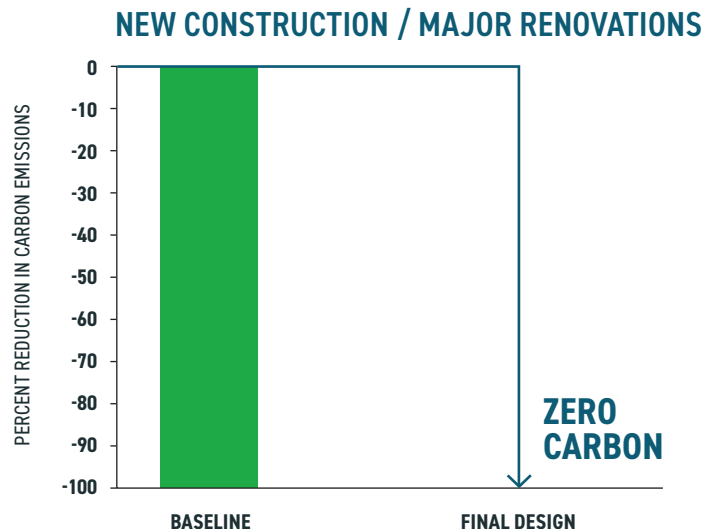
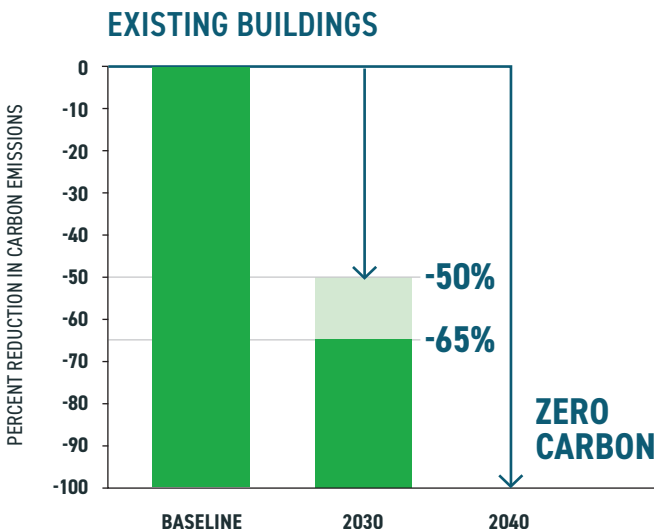
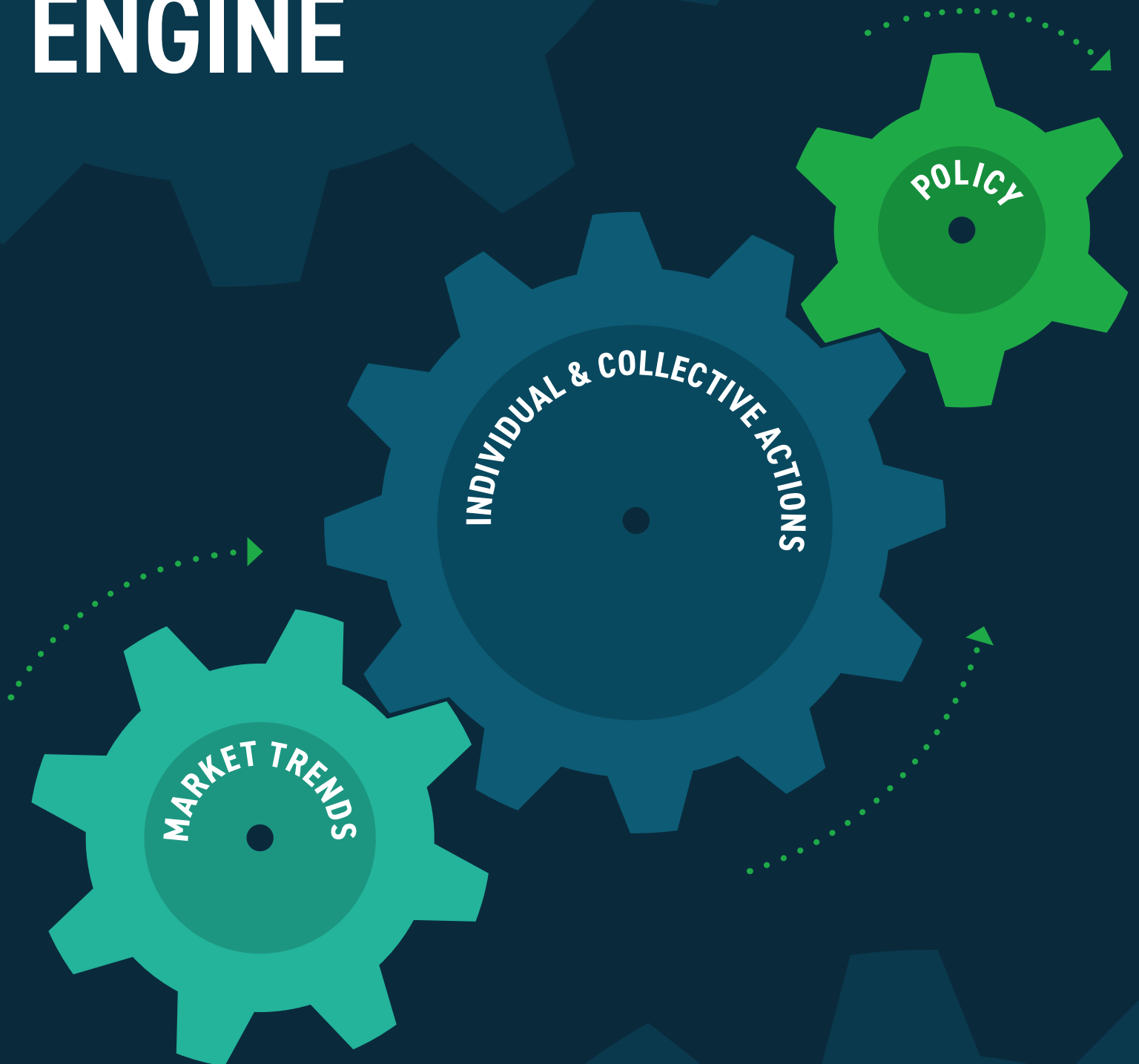


figure 1

Speeding up the

DECARBONIZATION ENGINE



Market Trends

Across the nation, electricity demand projections are rising due to increased use of electric vehicles, building electrification, and construction of data centers to fuel energy-intensive AI usage.¹⁸ Pennsylvania, 12 neighboring states, and Washington, D.C. are served by PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that distributes electricity from the grid to over 65 million people. Current projections estimate a nearly 40% increase in electricity use by 2039 in this area.¹⁹ 287 GW of electricity generation – over 95% of which is carbon free – is in a queue to be connected to PJM’s grid.²⁰ Due to challenges with this queue and increasing electricity demand, current electricity generation is not keeping up and customers will see increasing costs over the coming years – even with PJM agreeing to cap prices in February 2025.²¹ Energy efficiency and reducing energy demand have never been more important. Increased prices change the cost-benefit analysis of energy efficiency retrofits, making them more financially feasible with shorter payback periods. **Reducing energy use not only lowers utility bills and helps negate energy price increases, it also lessens the load on the grid, helping to prevent blackouts and brownouts. This is an example of the importance of energy reduction in achieving resiliency.**

Policy

Refrigerants act as potent greenhouse gases, with impacts of several hundred to several thousand times the impact of an equivalent amount of CO₂ when they are released into the atmosphere through leaks or improper disposal. As part of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act, 2024 marked the end of production of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants such as R-410A, which will be replaced by lower GWP refrigerants such as R-32 and the new R-454B.²²

In July, Pennsylvania established the Solar for Schools program, allocating \$25 million in grants for schools to install on-site solar arrays.²³ Under this program, schools can apply for grants of up to 50% of the project cost,²⁴ significantly lowering the barrier for schools to install solar and reduce their utility costs.

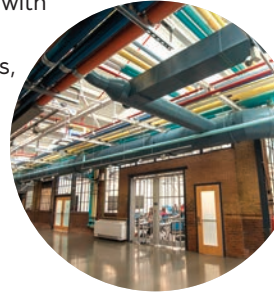
David L. Lawrence Convention Center Photo Credit: Ed Massery

Individual & Collective Action

Many 2030 District partners have completed impressive energy efficiency and resiliency projects in the past two years.

ENERGY INNOVATION CENTER

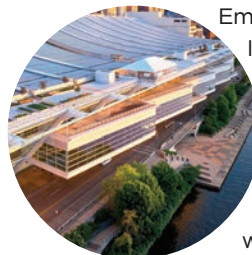
In 2024, the **Energy Innovation Center** completed a major lighting retrofit, replacing 680 fluorescent bulbs with LEDs. Since many of the bulbs replaced were in areas where lights are on 24/7, such as stairways, the energy and cost savings will be significant and are estimated at \$11,000 per year. Pittsburgh Gateways, owner of the Energy Innovation Center, took advantage of Act 129 rebates to save over 75% on their LED bulbs which brought the price down to \$1 per bulb.



DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER

As part of its LEED recertification in 2022, the **David L. Lawrence Convention Center** completed an energy audit to identify opportunities to implement energy saving projects.

Emphasis was placed on retro-commissioning: looking at existing building systems, controls, and setpoints to identify low-cost recalibration and control changes to improve efficiency and reduce energy use. Actions included changing settings within the building automation system, which resulted in near-immediate payback.



CENTRAL UTILITY BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

In 2023, the **University of Pittsburgh** completed their new **Central Utility Building**, which features three 2,500-ton chillers as well as a hidden secret: a 250,000-gallon cistern for captured stormwater underneath the adjacent parking lot. Collected from building roofs of the upper campus, stormwater that would normally head to Pittsburgh’s combined sewer systems is instead directed to the underground cistern. The stormwater can be used in place of potable water in the cooling towers’ condenser loop, providing multiple benefits: less stormwater entering the sewer system reduces the likelihood of overflows of sewage entering our rivers; reductions in stormwater fees; and lower utility bills due to less potable water use.



2024 DATA

An aerial photograph of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with numerous buildings highlighted in a bright teal color. The highlights are concentrated in the downtown area, particularly along the riverfront and in the central business district. The map shows a dense urban layout with a grid of streets and a river winding through the city.

THE PITTSBURGH 2030 DISTRICT HAS EXCEEDED THE
MINIMUM CARBON EMISSIONS GOAL SIX YEARS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

25.6%

ENERGY
REDUCTION

33.3%

WATER
REDUCTION

30M

SQUARE FEET
EVALUATED FOR IAQ
(2021 DATA)

406,000

METRIC TONS OF CO₂e
EMISSIONS AVOIDED



540+

BUILDINGS
COMMITTED WITHIN
BOUNDARY

86M+

SQUARE FEET
COMMITTED WITHIN
BOUNDARY

52.3%

CARBON REDUCTION
(INCLUDING RECs)

\$56M

ANNUAL UTILITY
COST SAVINGS

\$525M

CUMULATIVE UTILITY
COST SAVINGS

Baseline & Performance Metrics

Determining a building's reduction in carbon emissions, energy, and water use, and its improvement in indoor air quality requires a baseline. Unique use types such as stadiums and museums have custom baselines referencing their historic performance.





	 CARBON EMISSIONS	 ENERGY	 WATER	 INDOOR AIR QUALITY
Baseline Type	National Baseline	National Baseline	Local Baseline	Local Baseline + Best Practices from Building Rating Systems
Baseline Source	2003 Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS)	2003 Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS)	2009–2012 Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority water usage	University of Pittsburgh pilot study; best practices from building rating systems, including BREEAM, LEED, WELL, FitWell, RESET, Living Building Challenge, and Core
Baseline Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate zone • Building use type(s) • Occupancy • Weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate zone • Building use type(s) • Occupancy • Weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building use type(s) • Building size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building use type(s)
Impact Metric	Annual Emissions Intensity (EI)	Annual Energy Use Intensity (EUI)	Annual Water Use Intensity (WUI)	N/A
Measurement Units	kg CO2e/square foot/year	kBtu/square foot/year	Gallons/square foot/year	Points-based system
Tracking Method	ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager	ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager	ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager	GBA Indoor Air Quality Survey
Reporting 2024 Performance	267 buildings, 53.7 million square feet, 62% of total committed square feet	268 buildings, 53.9 million square feet, 63% of total committed square feet	305 buildings, 54.7 million square feet, 64% of total committed square feet	Reporting 2021 Performance 141 buildings, 30.2 million square feet, 35% of total committed square feet

table 1



CARBON EMISSIONS

From Energy to Carbon: Tracking Progress

Except for renewable energy, producing and using energy creates carbon emissions, and different types of energy have different emissions factors. Depending on the amount of each fuel that a building uses, the volume of emissions produced will differ. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tracks building-related emissions by determining the amount of each fuel type used and multiplying the usage by the corresponding emissions factor for that fuel.²⁵ Combining practices of energy reduction with a transition to cleaner energy types moves us toward lower building emissions over time.

Reaching a Major Milestone

Over the past four years, the District has seen significant progress in reducing carbon emissions. In an outstanding achievement, **2024 marked the first year that the Pittsburgh District met the 2030 goal of a 50–65% reduction in carbon emissions, with a 52.3% reduction from the baseline!** GBA celebrates and congratulates our partners on this accomplishment.

Our early success in reaching our 2030 target was no accident, but rather the direct result of strategic investment, careful planning, and collective accountability. We must continue those efforts to reach zero carbon emissions by 2040, and GBA will continue to support you every step of the way.

2024 MARKED THE FIRST YEAR THAT THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT MET THE 2030 GOAL OF A 50-65% REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS, WITH A 52.3% REDUCTION FROM THE BASELINE!

The Impact of Renewable Energy

As with prior years, **purchased renewable energy comprised a significant part of the District's carbon emissions performance, accounting for 10.7% of the reduction.** BNY, PNC Bank, Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, Carnegie Mellon University, and Duquesne University continued purchasing 100% renewable energy. The Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium (WPEC), of which a number of 2030 District partners are a part, increased their renewable energy purchasing from 8% in 2023 to over 38% in 2024 – leading to a significant boost in renewable energy usage. Also notable is the fact that The University of Pittsburgh joined WPEC last year, further increasing their clean energy purchasing.

2024's reduction in carbon emissions was also due in part to the electric grid getting cleaner. Though it was a minor change, the most recent carbon emissions factor for our region's grid was lower than prior years and positively impacted the carbon emissions reduction. With substantial amounts of renewable energy waiting to connect to the nation's grid, the vision for carbon-free electricity is becoming increasingly possible.

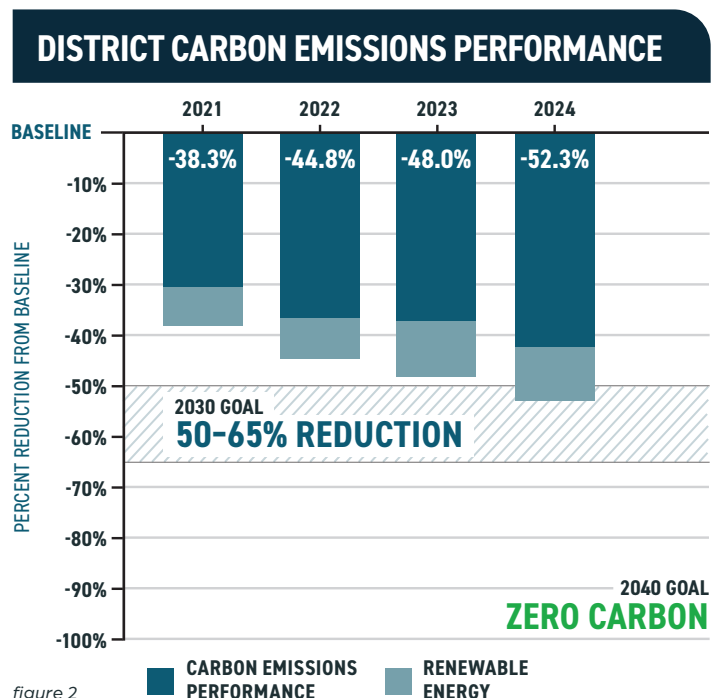


figure 2



ENERGY

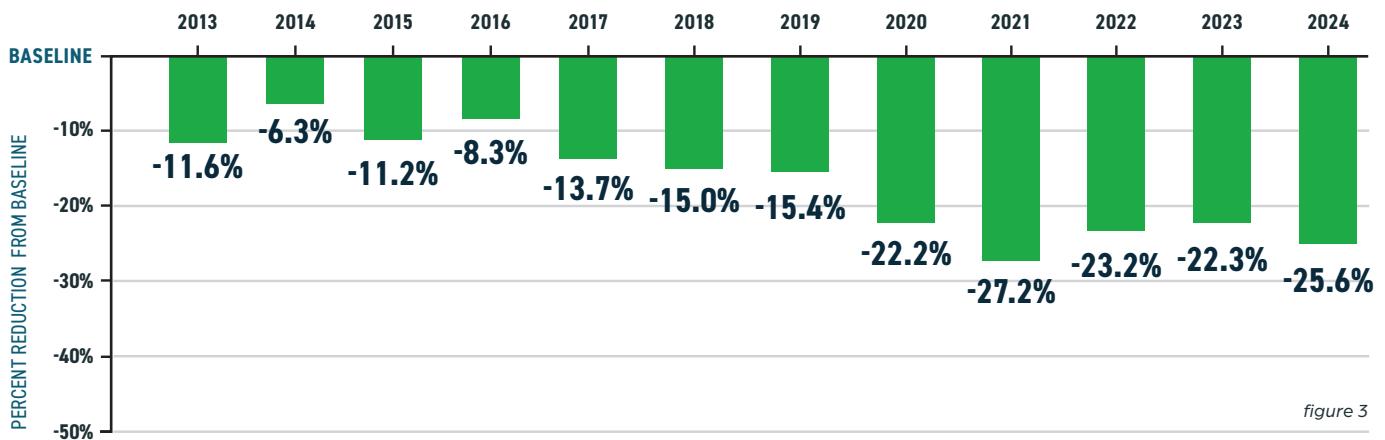
Energy Changes: Efficiency Projects & Annual Report Fluctuations

Energy performance of the Pittsburgh 2030 District improved by 3.3% from 2023 to 2024. While this was in part due to partners completing energy efficiency projects, like the lighting and retro-commissioning discussed on page 9, it was also due to data quality factors that influenced which buildings were included in this report. The number and type of buildings analyzed in each progress report vary from year to year for a variety of reasons ranging from personnel changes, to missing utility bills, to metering and data quality issues. In 2024, several partners experienced metering issues that resulted in incomplete data, leading to their

exclusion in this year's report. This resulted in a lower reporting percentage of buildings and square feet compared to 2023. While it is impossible to know these buildings' exact influence on District performance for 2024, if they performed the same as they did in 2023, we estimate that their exclusion from the report is responsible for roughly 2% of the reduction in energy use.

Due to several partners being omitted from this analysis that regularly report, Green Building Alliance assumes the energy usage of the 2030 District in 2024 to be roughly the same as 2023. GBA strongly recommends additional federal, state, and utility-based incentives to help reduce energy usage as well as implementing a Building Performance Standard, discussed in the next section.

DISTRICT ENERGY PERFORMANCE



TOTAL ENERGY USE AVOIDED

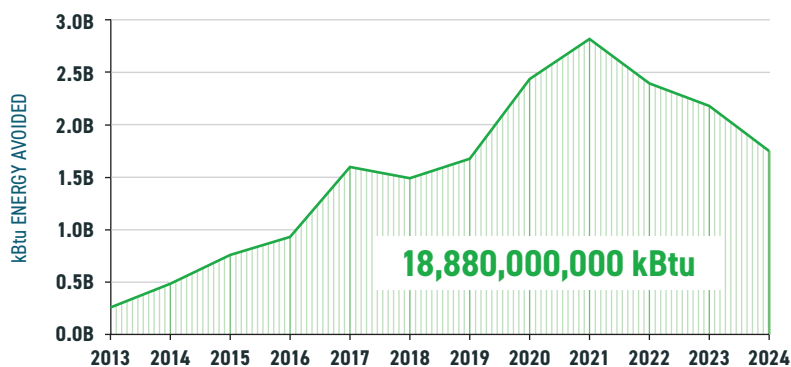


figure 4

2024 ENERGY COST SAVINGS:

\$44.2M

CUMULATIVE ENERGY COST SAVINGS:

\$418M

Ensuring an Energy Efficient Future: Pittsburgh Compared to Other Cities

Offices are the largest property use type in the Pittsburgh 2030 District both in total energy usage and square footage. While the Pittsburgh 2030 District data is confidential, many cities across the US have adopted benchmarking requirements that allow public viewing of buildings' energy performance. Figure 5 compares the median annual energy use intensity (EUI) of the office buildings in the Pittsburgh 2030 District to the most recent benchmarking information from cities with similar climates: Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Chicago.

While office buildings in the Pittsburgh 2030 District are holding their own against bigger cities (a great achievement!), it is clear that Washington, D.C.'s office buildings are performing exceptionally well. The narrow range of their office performance values is an incredible success – one that has been nearly two decades in the making.

Washington, D.C., has been a leader in sustainability, pioneering numerous pieces of legislation geared towards improving the energy efficiency of the city's buildings. The Green Building Act of 2006 required all new non-residential public buildings to obtain LEED certification, and in 2012, this was extended to private developments greater than 50,000 square feet.²⁶ The effects of this act are clear: an analysis of LEED certified projects and square footage in the US put Washington D.C., on top, with more certified square footage per capita than all 50 states for every year since 2010.²⁷ Alongside passing advanced building codes in 2008, the city started their benchmarking program in 2010, eventually requiring all buildings 10,000 square feet or above to publicly disclose their annual energy use.²⁸ While benchmarking ordinances themselves do not improve energy usage, they are the building block for future energy performance policies. The effects of these policies are clearly visible in the benchmarking data.

D.C. isn't done improving their building stock – in 2021, they unveiled their Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS). The BEPS takes benchmarking one step further: instead of just disclosing annual energy use, buildings are now required to meet certain energy performance levels every six years. Buildings that do not meet the mandated energy performance standard must choose a compliance pathway, either performance or

OFFICE ENERGY PERFORMANCE COMPARISON BY CITY*

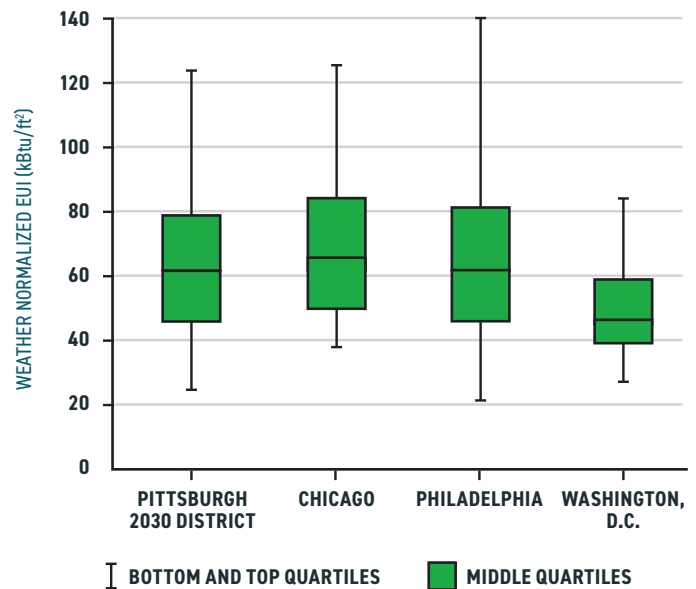


figure 5

*Chicago, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., do not include the bottom or top 5% to exclude vacant or misclassified buildings.

prescriptive based.²⁹ The first BEPS cycle for buildings greater than 50,000 square feet began in 2021, and successive BEPS cycles will include smaller buildings, all the way down to 10,000 square feet in 2034.²⁹ The first BEPS cycle will conclude in 2026, continuing the trailblazing work established back in 2006.

Pittsburgh does not have a Building Performance Standard, though the groundwork has been laid with its benchmarking ordinance requiring buildings that are 50,000 square feet or larger to disclose annual utility data. While voluntary efforts from members of the Pittsburgh 2030 District have resulted in significant energy savings since the District's inception in 2012, the program is an example of a market-scale demonstration project: **policy changes are necessary to formalize what was once cutting-edge innovation as the region-wide standard.** Advancing Pennsylvania building codes to match the latest International Energy Conservation Code, increasing federal, state, local, and utility-based funding for energy efficiency projects, and implementing a building performance standard will guarantee better energy performance long into the future. We have a lot of work to do to catch up to D.C. (with a nearly 20-year head start!), but through the progress of the Pittsburgh 2030 District, the foundation has been laid for policymakers to ensure Pittsburgh's future energy performance – starting now.



WATER

Hybrid Work Policies & Water Leaks

2024 saw a moderate increase in water use, rising from 39.4% below the baseline in 2023 to 33.3% below the baseline. Despite this, water use remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels. This is a continual reflection of the decrease in occupancy in many office buildings due to hybrid work policies. Though water use is correlated with occupancy, water leaks can cause substantial

changes in water use from year to year. Leaks that are not caught quickly can result in monthly water bills being several times higher than normal. Unfortunately, leaks are quite common, with a handful of buildings each year experiencing notable water leaks. While some water leaks are inevitable, catching them early will save money. Encouraging tenants, employees, and building occupants to report leaks as soon as they are noticed will help prevent you from pouring money down the drain (literally!).

DISTRICT WATER PERFORMANCE

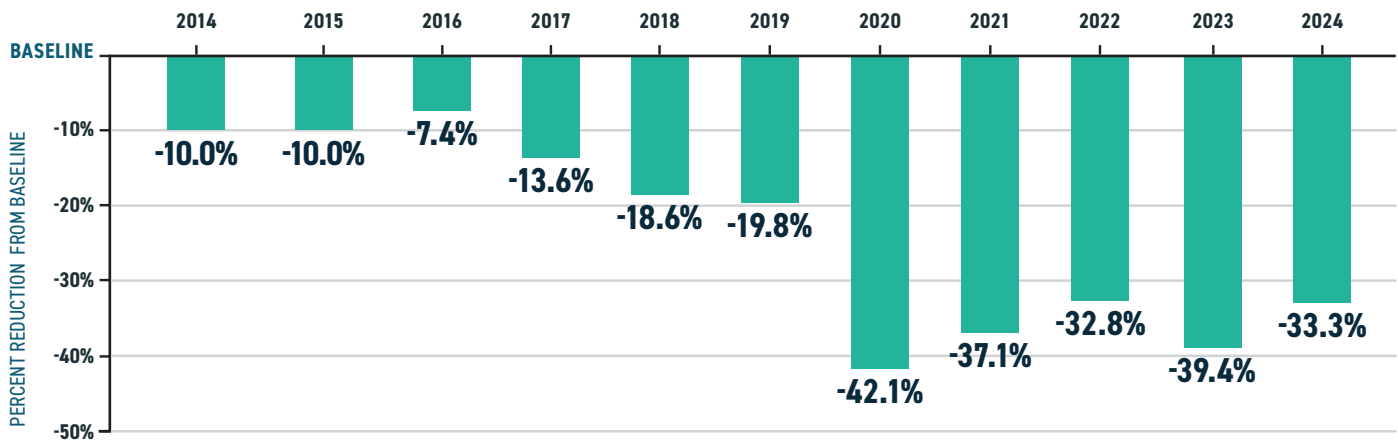


figure 6

TOTAL WATER USE AVOIDED

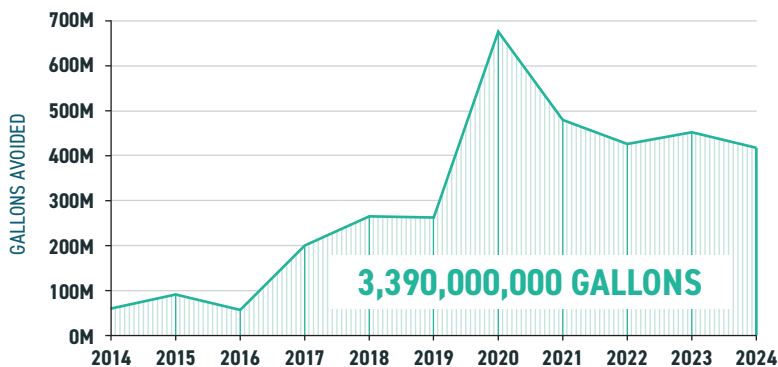


figure 7

2024 WATER COST SAVINGS:

\$11.3M

CUMULATIVE WATER SAVINGS:

\$106.4M



INDOOR AIR QUALITY

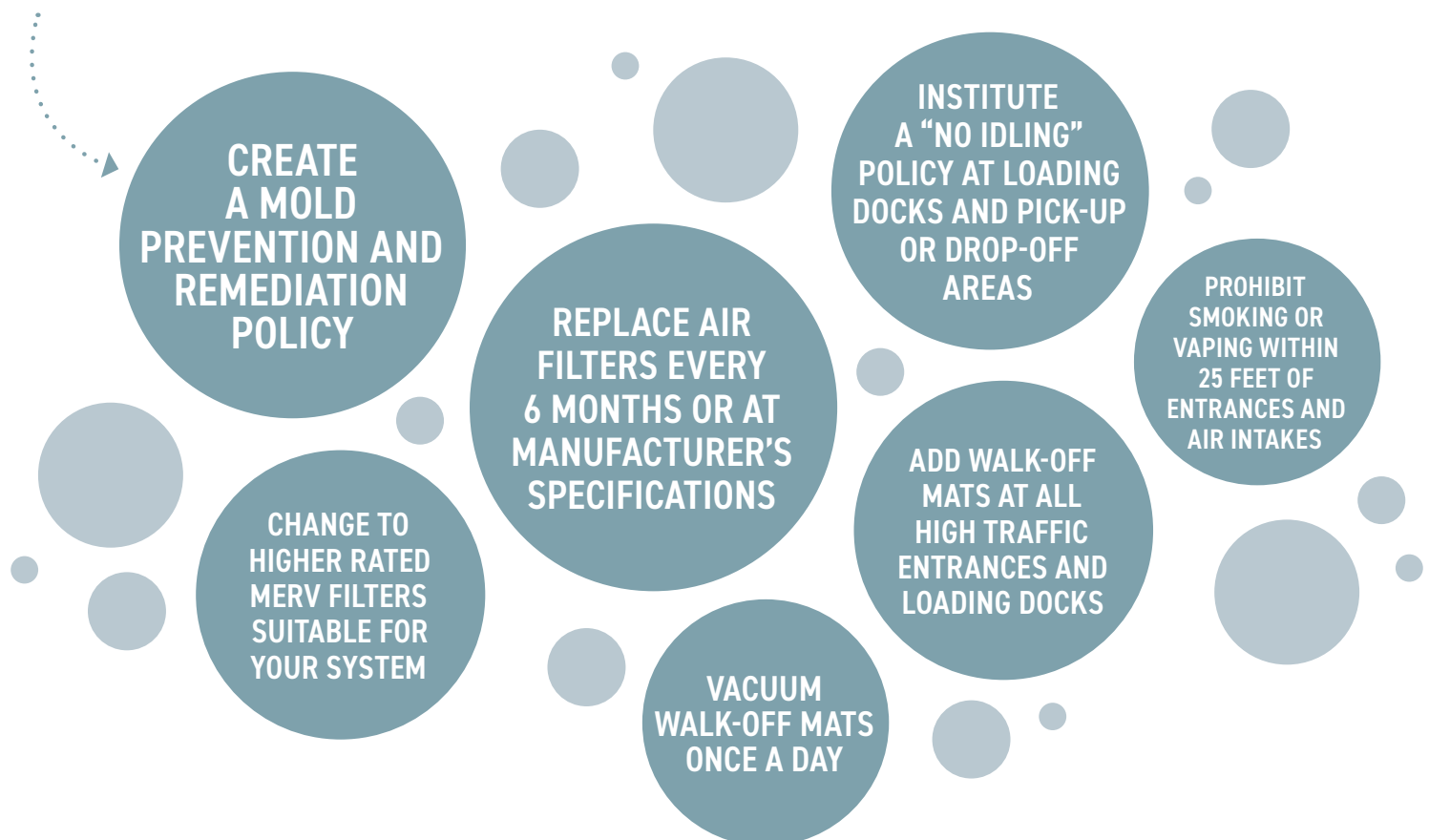
Why Indoor Air Quality?

Our region's history as an industrial powerhouse means Pittsburgh is no stranger to poor air quality. While much has changed with our region's economic transition, the Pittsburgh metropolitan area consistently ranks in the top 25 worst metropolitan areas in the US for annual particulate pollution.³⁰ Outdoor air quality directly affects indoor air quality (IAQ) and human health, so IAQ was chosen as the fourth metric for the Pittsburgh 2030 District.

Survey Methodology & Creation

In 2019, GBA pioneered an IAQ survey that queried partners about practices that impact indoor air quality. This 36-question survey spans five categories: testing and monitoring, building policy and occupant behavior, building characteristics and ventilation systems, operations and maintenance, and materials policy. Questions are designed to identify best practices in operation and design for building owners and operators to make improvements to the indoor air quality of their buildings. The questions and categories were developed from multiple building rating systems, including BREEAM, FitWEL, LEED, Living Building Challenge, ReSET, and WELL, along with research conducted between GBA and the University of Pittsburgh. GBA has orchestrated the survey twice, in 2019 and 2022, and is excited to distribute the survey a third time in fall 2025 to measure and recognize our partners' progress.

LOW-COST ACTIONS TO IMPROVE IAQ



NEW KENSINGTON AREA 2030 DISTRICT



Background & Challenges

Envisioning New Kensington's future must begin with its past. The city established itself as an industrial hub in the late 1800s, with the founding of Alcoa's aluminum manufacturing and research facilities in 1891.³¹ This ushered in a wave of investment and life to the city. Through the 1950s, New Kensington experienced growth, driven by Alcoa and other industries that called New Kensington home. The collapse of many American heavy manufacturing industries in the 1960s–70s affected New Kensington, with Alcoa closing their manufacturing plant in 1971.³² Since 1950, New Kensington's population has dropped by a staggering 50%.³¹ Like many smaller Rust Belt towns, New Kensington suffers from a dwindling population, vacant buildings, and blighted properties, with many of its buildings in need of extensive and costly repairs and upgrades.³³

Opportunities

Despite these challenges, New Kensington has been reinventing itself, bolstered by an energetic community focused on improving its central business district and surrounding area. Tackling the state of the existing building stock is a large part of this revitalization. The change has been highlighted by the redevelopment of Alcoa's former production facility on the bank of the Allegheny River. Under the leadership of Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation and Regional Industrial Development Corporation, the 70-acre site with 1.2 million square feet of buildings is being transformed into the New Kensington Advanced Manufacturing Park.³⁴ Headlined by anchor tenant Re:Build Manufacturing, 20 companies now call this park home,³⁵ providing valuable jobs to the surrounding area.

This growth is not just industrial: the area of Fifth Avenue deemed the "Corridor of Innovation" recently received a Great Transformation award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association.³⁶ Through planning, collaboration, and investment from government and local businesses, this stretch of Fifth Avenue has been transformed. Efforts from local organization Olde Towne Overhaul to refurbish vacant properties and support local businesses have played a crucial part in the street's revitalization.³⁷ Now, with spaces such as The Corner, a collaborative workspace; The Digital Foundry, which offers technical training and education opportunities; and Knead Community Café, New Kensington's revitalization is picking up steam.

Photo Credit: Brian C. Rittmeyer, Tribune Review

NEW KENSINGTON CITY HALL



23,472

POPULATION
(US CENSUS)

2024

YEAR PROGRAM
WAS ESTABLISHED

26

BUILDINGS
COMMITTED

1,370,000

SQUARE FEET
COMMITTED

MURAL IN DOWNTOWN NEW KENSINGTON, PA



Photo Credit: BridgePerspective

OUR IMPACT IN NEW KENSINGTON

Building owners and the City of New Kensington have identified roof replacements and envelope improvements as a high priority. To help the city pursue a roof replacement project, GBA identified the state-funded Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and Energy Efficiency (MORE) grant program and submitted an application with the help of the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance. The city was awarded the \$50,000 grant to fund an in-depth energy assessment of New Kensington's City Hall that will guide future building upgrades and systems, such as the roof replacement. This grant allows the City of New Kensington to apply for the future MORE loan program to cover project costs for building improvements identified in the energy assessment. GBA will use City Hall retrofits and subsequent energy savings as an educational tool to inspire other building owners.

OUR WORK AHEAD

GBA is developing two new education courses to support our partners: **Energy Efficiency 101** and **Intro to Capital Planning**. Energy Efficiency 101 details actionable no- and low- cost energy and water efficiency measures that building owners and operators can quickly implement to reduce utility usage and save costs. Intro to Capital Planning will share information on multiple aspects of the capital planning process, including identifying and prioritizing projects, budgeting for capital improvements, and keeping plans updated throughout the year. GBA will also offer on-site office hours in New Kensington to meet with building owners and assist with energy and water efficiency challenges.

JOIN THE PITTSBURGH 2030 DISTRICT

The Value of Community

The Pittsburgh 2030 District's success stems from its extensive community of partners and sponsors spanning multiple sectors across the Pittsburgh region. Property Partners have opportunities to learn and benefit from personalized support, professional guidance, training, and technical assistance available through the 2030 District program, and GBA works with every 2030 District partner to create a warm, trusted relationship. GBA provides robust education sessions on relevant topics, including energy efficiency technologies and best practices, industry trends, and decarbonization strategies, as well as building tours of successful local projects. The network that the 2030 District has created fosters peer-to-peer relationships and learning opportunities, allowing partners to learn from their neighbors and share their own successes. Pittsburgh 2030 District Partners form a community of educated, purposeful leaders that have the knowledge to positively impact building development and operations throughout the region.

Individual Building Utility Use Assessments

GBA consults with Property Partners one-on-one to identify and prioritize critical investments toward achieving individual reduction targets. Partners receive a confidential annual performance report that analyzes their progress towards energy reductions, water reductions, utility cost savings, zero carbon, and indoor air quality performance. These reports highlight Partners' current and former performance, while GBA staff provide context and ideas for specific building upgrades. Where possible, reports also compare a building's performance to similar, anonymous local buildings.

Become a Property Partner

Distinguish your organization or school district by joining Western Pennsylvania's most influential network of building owners and developers! Upon commitment to the 2030 Challenge goals, Property Partners gain access to a community of technical experts, service providers, and fellow building management professionals, as well as individualized property benchmarking and evaluation. Any new or existing developments in Western Pennsylvania are welcome to join.



**Green
Building
Alliance**

Green Building Alliance (GBA) positively transforms the world through the built environment for a sustainable, healthy, economically prosperous and just future for everyone. As Greater Pittsburgh's authority on high-performance, energy efficient, sustainable design, GBA drives the market for healthy communities and strong economies while equipping designers, manufacturers, developers, and policymakers to catalyze systemic change in the way we design, build, and renovate our buildings. GBA manages the largest 2030 District in North America, and in 2019, established Pittsburgh as the 2nd International Center of Excellence on High Performance Building in the world. GBA partners with organizations across Western Pennsylvania and internationally, with strategic alliances including the 2030 District Network, Architecture 2030, the United Nations, and International Living Future Institute.

Property Partners & District Affiliates:

A.W. Beattie Career Center*
 ALCO Parking
 Allegheny Center Alliance Church
 Allegheny County*
 Allegheny County Airport Authority*
 Allegheny Health Network*
 ASCEND Pittsburgh*
 Avenu/Innovate PGH
 Avison-Young
 Bellefield Presbyterian Church
 Benedum Trees
 Berner International Corp.*
 Bethlehem Haven Of Pittsburgh
 Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services
 BNY
 BPG 360 Real Estate Services
 Braskem America
 Bridgeway Capital*
 Burns Scalo Real Estate
 Butler Area School District*
 California Area School District*
 Carlow University
 Carlynton School District*
 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Carnegie Museums
 CBRE
 Central Catholic High School
 Chatham University*
 Children's Museum
 City of Pittsburgh*
 Collaborative Real Estate
 Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC)*
 DMI Companies*
 Dollar Bank
 Duquesne University
 East Liberty Lutheran Church*
 Elmhurst Group
 Environmental Charter School*
 Faros Properties
 First Presbyterian Church
 Forest Hills Borough*
 General Services Administration
 Giant Eagle
 Global Links*
 Grant Liberty Development
 Group Associates & Ix
 Liberty Center Venture
 Hazelwood Green*
 Heinz History Center

Hertz Investment Group
 Highmark
 Highwoods Properties
 Hilltop Alliance*
 Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP)*
 Hulet Properties
 JLL
 Kairos Real Estate
 Kossman Development*
 M&J Wilkow
 McAllister Equities
 McKnight Property Management*
 Mt. Lebanon School District*
 Mountain Watershed Association*
 Murland Associates
 National Aviary
 Neighborhood Legal Services
 Newmark Grubb Knight Frank
 Oxford Development
 Penn Hills School District*
 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
 Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
 Piatt Companies
 Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
 Pittsburgh Gateways
 Pittsburgh Musical Theater*
 Pittsburgh Parking Authority*
 Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy*
 Pittsburgh Penguins
 Pittsburgh Pirates
 Pittsburgh Public School District*
 Pittsburgh Steelers
 Planned Parenthood of Western PA
 PNC Financial Services Group
 Point Park University
 Project Love Coalition*
 Prothaven*
 Residences at Wood Street
 RIDC*
 RJ Community Management*
 Rodef Shalom Congregation
 Rothschild Doyno Collaborative
 Rugby Realty/Rexxhall Management
 Shadyside Academy*
 Shorenstein
 Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum Trust
 South Fayette Township School District*
 Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County

The Davis Companies
 The Ellis School*
 Tree Pittsburgh*
 University of Pittsburgh*
 UPMC*
 Volpatt Construction*
 Walnut Capital*
 Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children*
 Wexford SciTech*
 Winchester-Thurston School*
 Winthrop Management
 Woodland Hills School District*
 WOED Multimedia
 YWCA Greater Pittsburgh*

**Properties with an asterisk denote the Partner has at least one building committed outside of the boundary as a District Affiliate.*

Erie 2030 District Property Partners:

1001 State OZ Operator, LLC
 Allegheny Health Network
 Benedictine Sisters of Erie
 Cathedral of St. Paul
 City of Erie
 Emmaus Ministries Inc.
 Erie Art Museum
 Erie City Mission
 Erie County
 Erie Food Cooperative
 Erie Insurance
 Erie United Methodist Alliance
 First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
 Gannon University
 Mercyhurst University
 PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 PA Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA)
 Penn State Behrend
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania
 UPMC Hamot

New Kensington Property Partners:

City of New Kensington
 Olde Towne Overhaul
 RIDC
 UPMC

PROGRAM STAFF



Ashley DiGregorio
Senior Director



Paige Colao
Director of Strategy & Analysis



Lisbet Searle-White
Director of Outreach & Technical Assistance



Tobias Chan
2030 District Performance & Outreach Coordinator

With Assistance From:

Jenna Cramer
President & CEO

Chris Cieslak
COO & VP of Programs

Laura Ellis
Senior Director, Communications

Community/ Resource Partners:

AIA Pittsburgh
Allegheny Conference on
Community Development
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny County
Architecture 2030
ASHRAE - Pittsburgh
Bike Pittsburgh
Bridgeway Capital
Building Owners & Managers
Association of Pittsburgh (BOMA)
Carnegie Museum of Natural
History & BirdSafe Pittsburgh

City of Pittsburgh
Community Resilience Action
Network of Erie (CRANE)
Congress of Neighboring
Communities (CONNECT)
Cordia Energy
Duquesne Light Company
Erie Bird Observatory
Generation180
Group Against Smog and
Pollution (GASP)
International Living Future Institute
International Union of Operating
Engineers, Local 95
Keystone Energy Efficiency
Alliance (KEEA)
Master Builders' Association
of Western Pennsylvania

NAIOP Pittsburgh
New Sun Rising
Northside/Northshore
Chamber of Commerce
Oakland Business Improvement
District (OBID)
Oakland Planning and
Development Corp. (OPDC)
Oakland Task Force
Oakland Transportation
Management Association (OTMA)
PA Sea Grant
Pennsylvania Solar Center
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Pennsylvania Resources Council

Pennsylvania Technical Assistance
Program (PennTAP)
Pittsburgh Downtown CDC
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT)
Pittsburgh Water
POGOH
Riverlife
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Commission
Student Conservation Association
Sustainable Pittsburgh
Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh
Urban Land Institute - Pittsburgh
Urban Redevelopment Authority
VisitPittsburgh

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

Gold:



Bronze:

AIA Pittsburgh
Blue Delta Energy
BUSS
Cordia Energy
Duquesne Light Company
Filtech
The Garland Company
Green Building Initiative
Interface
Tall Timber Group
Volpatt Construction

Silver:



Funders:



REFERENCES

- 1 Native Land Digital. (n.d.). [Map of Indigenous Lands]. Retrieved March 25, 2022, from <https://native-land.ca>
- 2 Williams, J. (n.d.). *Design resiliency often means going beyond building code requirements*. FacilitiesNet. https://www.facilitiesnet.com/emergencypreparedness/article/Design-Resiliency-Often-Means-Going-Beyond-Building-Code-Requirements--20441?oly_enc_id=9896A6393067J3D&source=facility_insider
- 3 Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2024, August). *National resilience guidance*. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_national-resilience-guidance_august2024.pdf
- 4 Trauma Resource Institute. (2025, January 21). *Healing after disasters*. <https://www.traumaresourceinstitute.com/blog/healingafterdisasters>
- 5 Stiell, S. (2024, November 18). *National adaptation plans: Key to unleashing the transformative power of resilience and protecting communities and economics*. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. <https://unfccc.int/news/national-adaptation-plans-key-to-unleashing-the-transformative-power-of-resilience-and-protecting>
- 6 Danielle, M. (2025, January 13). *AccuWeather estimates more than \$250 billion in damages and economic loss from L.A. wildfires*. AccuWeather. <https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/accuweather-estimates-more-than-250-billion-in-damages-and-economic-loss-from-la-wildfires/1733821>
- 7 Kestin, S. (2024, October 19). *The lives we lost: Helene took entire families, couples, children*. Asheville Watchdog. <https://avlwatchdog.org/the-lives-we-lost-helene-took-entire-families-couples-children/>
- 8 Hlavinka, E. (2025, January 28). *After a disaster, communities can be at risk for toxic exposures. Do residents know that?* Yahoo News. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/disaster-communities-risk-toxic-exposures-103005781.html?guccounter=2>
- 9 Forstadt, J. (2024, June 3). *Pittsburgh Public Schools closes buildings due to extreme heat for the fifth time this school year*. 90.5 WESA. <https://www.wesa.fm/education/2024-06-03/pittsburgh-public-schools-closes-buildings-extreme-heat>
- 10 McDevitt, R. (2024, May 20). *Heaviest Pa. storms drop 60% more rain than they used to, report says*. 90.5 WESA. <https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-05-20/pennsylvania-more-rain-climate-change>
- 11 Howland, E. (2025, January 29). *PJM agrees to lower price cap for upcoming capacity auctions*. Utility Dive. <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/pjm-shapiro-pennsylvania-capacity-auction-price-cap/738591/>
- 12 Jackson, F. (2025, January 31). *Changing the narrative from decarbonization to modernization*. Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/feliciajackson/2025/01/31/changing-the-narrative-from-decarbonization-to-modernization/#msdynttrid=4qqft-b9Z5nEbH7yGzZGnuSjak2lxidAXhCPLqBva14>
- 13 UN Environment Programme. (2022). *2022 Global status report for buildings and construction: Towards a zero-emissions, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector*. https://globalabc.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/2022%20Global%20Status%20Report%20for%20Buildings%20and%20Construction_1.pdf
- 14 2030 District Network. (n.d.). *The 2030 Districts network*. <https://2030districts.org/>
- 15 Mazir, E. (2021, August 19). *CarbonPositive: If we act together now, we can change the world*. Architect Magazine. https://www.architectmagazine.com/carbon-positive/carbonpositive-if-we-act-together-now-we-can-change-the-world_o
- 16 Bardan, R. (2025, January 10). *Temperatures rising: NASA confirms 2024 warmest year on record*. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. <https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/temperatures-rising-nasa-confirms-2024-warmest-year-on-record/>
- 17 Gaffney, M., King, B., & Larsen, J. (2025, January 9). *Preliminary US greenhouse gas emissions estimates for 2024*. Rhodium Group. <https://rhg.com/research/ preliminary-us-greenhouse-gas-estimates-for-2024/>
- 18 St. John, J. (2025, January 2). *Lots of demand, too little grid: The state of the US power sector*. Canary Media. <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/transmission/lots-of-demand-too-little-grid-the-us-power-sector-in-2024>
- 19 PJM Inside Lines. (2025, January 9). *2024 in review: Maintaining an adequate generation supply*. <https://insidelines.pjm.com/2024-in-review-maintaining-an-adequate-generation-supply/>
- 20 Energy Technologies Area, Berkeley Lab. (2024, April). *Generation, storage, and hybrid capacity in interconnection queues*. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. <https://emp.lbl.gov/generation-storage-and-hybrid-capacity>
- 21 Riese, T. (2025, January 29). *Pa. Gov. Josh Shapiro touts agreement to prevent spike in electricity bills*. WESA. <https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2025-01-29/josh-shapiro-pjm-electric-grid-settlement>
- 22 Turpin, J.R. (2024, December 27). *Ringin in 2025 with big changes and a few challenges*. The ACHR News. <https://www.achrnews.com/blogs/17-opinions/post/163912-ringin-in-2025-with-big-changes-and-a-few-challenges>
- 23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (2024, July 22). *Governor Shapiro secures major bipartisan victories to cement Pennsylvania's place as an energy leader, signs solar for schools and carbon capture bills into law*. <https://www.pa.gov/governor/newsroom/2024-press-releases/governor-shapiro-secures-major-bipartisan-victories-to-cement-pe.html>
- 24 Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development. (2024, October). *Solar for schools grant program: Program guidelines*. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. <https://dced.pa.gov/download/solar-for-schools-grant-program-guidelines/?wpdmdl=125194>
- 25 Energy Star Portfolio Manager. (2024, August). *Technical reference: Greenhouse gas emissions*. <https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov/pdf/reference/Emissions.pdf>
- 26 District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment. (2021, December 17). *Green building act of 2006*. <https://doee.dc.gov/publication/green-building-act-2006>
- 27 Fenston, J. (2023, January 20). *Tiny little D.C. has more green buildings than most states*. DCist. <https://dcist.com/story/23/01/20/dc-more-green-buildings-most-states/>
- 28 District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment. (n.d.). *Is my building required to benchmark?* <https://dc.beam-portal.org/helpdesk/kb/benchmarking/6/>
- 29 Building Innovation Hub. (2025, January). *Latest BEPS standards and compliance rules*. <https://buildinginnovationhub.org/special-update-beps-rules-released/>
- 30 American Lung Association. (2024). *State of the air city rankings: Pittsburgh-New Castle-Weirton, PA-OH-WV*. <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/msas/pittsburgh-new-castle-weirton-pa-oh-wv>
- 31 New Kensington, Pennsylvania. (2025, January 12). In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=New_Kensington,_Pennsylvania&oldid=1269032591
- 32 Herring, A. (2023, May 1). *Former Amazon exec wants to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., starting in New Kensington*. WESA. <https://www.wesa.fm/economy-business/2023-05-01/rebuild-manufacturing-new-kensington>
- 33 Rittmeyer, B. C. (2021, January 17). *One man's mission to overhaul downtown New Kensington opening doors for new business owners*. Redevelopment Authority of New Kensington. <https://www.newkenredevelopment.org/post/one-man-s-mission-to-overhaul-downtown-new-kensington-opening-doors-for-new-business-owners>
- 34 Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (n.d.). *New Kensington Advanced Manufacturing Park*. <https://www.westmorelandcountypa.gov/3249/New-Kensington-Advanced-Manufacturing-Pa>
- 35 Regional Industrial Development Corporation. (n.d.). *New Kensington Advanced Manufacturing Park*. <https://ridc.org/park/new-kensington-advanced-manufacturing-park/>
- 36 American Planning Association Pennsylvania Chapter. (2024). *Great Places in Pennsylvania-2/* <https://planningpa.org/about/great-places-in-pennsylvania-2/>
- 37 Yerace, T. (2024, December 8). *Peers say New Kensington's revitalization efforts paying off*. TribLive. <https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/peers-say-new-kensingtons-revitalization-efforts-paying-off/>



**Green
Building
Alliance**

412.773.6000 | gba.org | info@gba.org

317 East Carson Street, Suite 122, Pittsburgh, PA 15219