News For Immediate Release

Green Building Alliances Presents Resilient Reading Progress Report

Programming provides commercial building owners with no cost technical assistance to assess energy use, identify and plan energy improvements, upgrade properties, and pursue rebates, incentives, and funding opportunities

November 10, 2026 (READING, Pa) -- Green Building Alliance (GBA) today detailed the progress of its Resilient Reading initiative, a multi-year effort established to help commercial building owners, small businesses and nonprofits improve their buildings, reduce energy use and utility costs, and pursue funding opportunities to finance their building improvement projects.

The GBA Resilient Reading team comes alongside building owners looking to address concerns ranging from rising energy bills, difficulties controlling indoor temperatures, an aging roof or HVAC system, or questions regarding a renovation.

In 2025-2026, GBA engaged with more than 600 partners and building owners, and provided over 300 hours of customized coaching and technical assistance to owners, including support for the following projects:

- Transformation of a vacant factory that once housed the E-Mac Dairy Brush Company into the new home of the **Reading Cable Company**, a manufacturing venture that will produce Made in the U.S. premium welding and power cables and custom accessories. GBA assisted the owner with developing a coordinated plan to address water damage, mechanical and electrical systems, project phasing, and potential funding sources.

- Renovation of the century-old former Industrial Abrasives building at **642 North 8th Street**. GBA assisted with identifying and understanding funding opportunities, conducted an energy and building envelope assessment, and identified measures ranging from capital planning, and systems upgrades.

- Energy efficiency planning for renovation of **Valsage LLC**, an 11,000-square-foot former manufacturing and office property. The Resilient Reading team provided a preliminary energy assessment, and identified recommendations for insulation, air sealing, higher-performing windows and HVAC, LED lighting, and controls. GBA also assisted the owner in understanding what was needed to apply for potential Act 129 rebates.

In November 2026, three projects that received GBA technical assistance and grant writing support were awarded grant funding from the Berks County Community Foundation:

- **Reading Cable Company**, awarded $9,000 for LED outdoor lighting
- **Valsage LLC**, awarded $30,473 for LED lighting
- **Berks Catholic High School,** awarded $100,000 to replace stadium lights with LED lighting

The Resilient Reading team works in close partnership with the City of Reading. In 2025, GBA and the City successfully pursued predevelopment municipal investment funding (MIF) from **ICLEI and the Coalition for Green Capital.** Reading was selected to receive a **$250,000 Phase 1 planning**

grant to support building project revitalization efforts that incorporate electrification — the only Pennsylvania applicant to receive a grant award.

As a result, a prioritized pipeline of more than 25 clean energy and redevelopment projects with an estimated combined value exceeding $225 million are being advanced. They include approximately 1.78 megawatts of planned **municipal solar canopies; redevelopment of the Glidden Paint Factory** brownfield and former **Penn Street bus station** site**; Fifth and Penn Bank Building** adaptive reuse project; and the **Dana industrial site redevelopment.**

Resilient Reading also presents monthly education programs and tours of buildings that model energy innovation and planning, helping business owners, property managers, and community members grow their knowledge. Events include Energy Efficiency and Green Buildings 101, C-PACE Financing, Building Automation Systems, and more.

To learn more about Resilient Reading, reach out to info@gba.org.

Resilient Reading is made possible through the support of the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund.

Resilient Reading
Resilient Reading is part of GBA's broader mission to create sustainable, economically vibrant communities where every person can thrive. Through education, collaboration, technical assistance, and innovation, GBA empowers local leaders and community partners to improve communities through the transformation of the built environment. Resilient Reading events bring topics to the community designed to educate, inspire, and provide examples of building energy efficiency projects, how to increase resilience against extreme weather events, financing opportunities for building upgrades, and more.

Resilient Reading GBA starts by meeting with building owners to review their energy bills and identify red flags and possible causes for spikes in energy use. This is followed by a walk through to assess the owner's building and identify cost-effective opportunities for improvement such as upgrading lighting to LED, weather stripping, sealing air leaks, improving insulation, and evaluating the condition of windows, doors, roofing and siding.

Additional guidance is provided on maintaining the operations of heating and cooling systems to optimize their performance, as well as understanding when it is time to replace them, along with cost savings that would be realized. Following an assessment, GBA connects owners with qualified service providers, explains available rebates, incentives and potential funding options, and helps translate technical findings, enabling owners to complete funding applications for their improvement projects.

About Green Building Alliance:
Green Building Alliance (GBA) positively transforms the world through the built environment to create a sustainable, healthy, and economically vibrant future for everyone. As Pennsylvania's authority on smart, high-performance building design, construction, products, and operations, GBA works alongside community leaders, schools, nonprofits, businesses and more while equipping designers, manufacturers, developers, and policymakers to adopt building practices that are as healthy for people as they are for the environment. GBA manages the largest 2030 District in North America (the Pittsburgh 2030 District), and in 2019, established Pittsburgh as the 2nd International Center of Excellence on High Performance Building in the world. GBA works throughout Pennsylvania and across the region, country, and world through strategic alliances including the 2030 Districts Network, United Nations, International Living Future Institute, and the High Performance Building Alliance (Ireland). More at www.gba.org.

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