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## Fact Sheet: Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL)

**Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**, established in 1893, seeks to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate our historic glasshouse. **Envisioning a future where vital connections between people, plants and habitats are restored for mutual benefit, we embrace sustainability as means to create a better world.** The ultimate expression of our work is the new **Center for Sustainable Landscapes** (CSL), one of Earth's greenest buildings.

### CSL at a Glance

- The CSL opened in December 2012
- It is a 24,350-square-foot education, research and administration facility designed and built by Pittsburghers and Pennsylvanians to serve as a model of innovation for the world
- The CSL is the result of a multi-year, integrated design process for which all project stakeholders met regularly at charrettes to collaborate and develop strategies for maximum efficiency
- It has been built to be carbon neutral in its operational phase, and to meet net-energy and net-zero water goals, reducing demand on natural resources and combating climate change
- The CSL is expected to be the first facility of its kind to meet or exceed all three of the world's highest green building and landscape standards:
  - [Living Building Challenge](#) of the International Living Future Institute™
  - [LEED® Platinum Certification](#) of the U.S. Green Building Council
  - [Sustainable Sites Initiative™](#) (SITES) certification
- It is part of a \$23.5 million phase 3 green building expansion, which includes:
  - \$15 million for the CSL
  - \$4 million dedicated to a research endowment
  - \$5 million for landscape work, education projects, and building and grounds renovation

### How it Works

- The CSL has been designed to mimic nature and function as efficiently and elegantly as a flower, highlighting the interconnectedness of the many natural systems at work all around us
- It generates its own energy with photovoltaic solar panels and a vertical axis wind turbine, and is passively heated and cooled with the aid of 14 geothermal wells buried underground
- The CSL treats and reuses all water captured on site and features a green roof, a lagoon, rain gardens, permeable paved surfaces, constructed wetlands, and a water distillation system
- It has an evolving restorative, sustainable landscape with nine different native plant communities that will provide habitat for wildlife and be irrigated with water collected on site

## Project Goals

- The CSL serves as a global model for sustainable design and operations, helping inspire others to reconnect with nature now as a means to live more sustainably into the future
- It is a site for exportable original green building and landscape performance research to be conducted in collaboration with local universities and other agencies
- The CSL will inspire museums and other institutions worldwide to institute green building, operational and educational programming to empower guests to become agents of change
- It is a place where community members and guests can learn more about healthy, eco-conscious living and come to better understand how our actions influence all others

## More Details

- Watch "[The Evolving Green Story of Phipps](#)"
- View "[Integrative Design – Phipps: A Case Study](#)"
- Visit the CSL website at [PhippsCSL.org](http://PhippsCSL.org)
- Read an excerpt from [Building in Bloom: The Making of the Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#)