



For Immediate Release: Sept. 23, 2014

Contact: Liz Fetchin | Director of Marketing and Communications
412/622-6915, ext. 3801 | lfetchin@phipps.conservatory.org

Phipps Wins Alliance to Save Energy Stars of Energy Efficiency Award

Pittsburgh public garden receives Innovative Star Award for landmark green construction.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) announced today that it has been honored with a 2014 [Stars of Energy Efficiency Award](#) from the [Alliance to Save Energy](#), receiving the Innovative Star Award for its Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL), one of the greenest buildings on Earth. A landmark construction, the CSL has already earned Net Zero Energy Building Certification under the Living Building Challenge™ (a program of the [International Living Future Institute™](#)) and is expected to be the first in the world to achieve Living Building Certification in tandem with LEED® Platinum and Four-Stars Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) certification for landscapes, both of which were awarded in 2013.

In order to operate at net-zero energy capacity, the CSL employs a large 125 kW onsite array of photovoltaic solar panels; a series of 14 geothermal wells buried 500 feet below ground; the first vertical axis wind turbine to be commissioned in the City of Pittsburgh; strategically placed operable windows, light shelves and reflective ceiling material that allow for natural daylighting; and high performance insulation and low-e windows that help regulate indoor temperatures in all seasons.

In addition to these energy-efficient highlights, the CSL, a home-base for environmental education and research programs, as well as a space for visitors to explore, is also a place of beauty and inspiration. Built on a former brownfield, the structure — incorporating biophilic art; recycled, salvaged and non-toxic materials; and other elements that celebrate connections to nature and promote wellness — is surrounded by a restorative landscape showcasing native plants and a green rooftop. Other site features added to achieve net-zero water aims include a lagoon, rain gardens and constructed wetlands.

“The CSL was created to serve as a model for how we can work with nature to make our communities healthier, safer and more supportive of life,” says Phipps Executive Director Richard V. Piacentini, who will accept the Innovative Star Award at a special ceremony held in Washington, D.C. on the evening of Sept. 23. “We are very honored to have received the Innovative Star Award from the Alliance to Save Energy and to have the chance to show the world just how inspiring and practical green, energy-efficient buildings can be.”

A leader in green building and operations, Phipps has also constructed the first LEED-certified visitor center in a public garden, the first-ever LEED-certified production greenhouses, and a tropical forest conservatory that was celebrated as the most energy efficient structure of its kind anywhere in the world when it opened in 2006. To learn more about the CSL, visit phipps.conservatory.org.

About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission 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 its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

| [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) |

###