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**Phipps Wins International Green Award as One of the World's Most Sustainable NGOs**

*Pittsburgh public garden receives global recognition for innovative green buildings and operations.*

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** – At a ceremony in London on November, 20 2012, [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) was awarded a bronze level of honor in the Most Sustainable NGO category for the seventh annual [International Green Awards™](#). Judged in eight key areas—energy, water, waste, resources, carbon, supply chain, transport and social—the Pittsburgh public garden was one of five finalists selected to demonstrate the globe's most innovative approaches to sustainable leadership. Accepting the award on behalf of Phipps was Executive Director Richard V. Piacentini.

Starting with an ambitious green campus expansion effort that has resulted in the first LEED® visitor center in a public garden; a tropical forest conservatory that now stands as the most energy-efficient structure of its kind; and the first-ever LEED Platinum greenhouses, Phipps has most recently raised the bar with the new [Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#) (CSL). Earning international attention as a state-of-the-art facility that will generate its own renewable energy, and treat and reuse all water captured on site, the CSL is expected to be the first building in the world to achieve Living Building Challenge, LEED® Platinum and Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES™). These additions are also supported by an equally green set of operations—from Phipps' [Green Restaurant Certified® café](#) to its sustainable gardens.

“As part of our mission to highlight important connections between plants, people and the planet, Phipps is deeply committed to making our buildings and operations as sustainable as possible, setting a new standard for nonprofits and businesses worldwide,” says Richard V. Piacentini, the visionary behind Phipps' green transformation. “We are honored to be among the winners of this prestigious award.”

Established in 2006, the International Green Awards are judged by eco game-changers across a wide spectrum of public sectors and recognize the efforts of organizations, corporations and celebrities around the world. Other winners include: Prince Charles (Lifetime Achievement); *Vampire Diaries* actor Ian Somerhalder (Most Responsible Celebrity); Interface (Most Sustainable Large Corporation); Yealands Estate Wines (Most Sustainable Medium Business); AJDR (Most Sustainable Small Business); Songpa-Gu Council (Most Sustainable Government); Sahabat Alam (Most Sustainable NGO); Bentleigh Secondary College (Most Sustainable Educational Institution); and YouGen (WWF Green Game Changer).

**About Phipps:** Built 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](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

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