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## **City of Pittsburgh Shows Green Building Leadership Again City Council Passes the Sustainable Development for Publicly Financed Buildings Ordinance**

PITTSBURGH, PA (July 21, 2009) – The City of Pittsburgh is once again joining 180+ municipalities across the country to utilize the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System™ to help promote practical and measurable green building solutions.

**In a final vote today, Pittsburgh City Council unanimously passed a supplement to the Pittsburgh Code, Title Nine, Zoning by adding a new subsection 915.06, *Sustainable Development for Publicly Financed Buildings*, sponsored by Councilman William Peduto, which stipulates that all City owned buildings and building projects utilizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars be built to LEED Silver under the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Green Building Rating System.** The ordinance applies to properties that either have total project costs exceeding \$2 million or are 10,000 square feet or more, *and* to renovations of City owned property where total project costs exceed \$2 million dollars.

Green Building Alliance (GBA) worked with Councilman Peduto's office on this piece of legislation and is very excited to see its passage. This legislation is the second in the City of Pittsburgh to promote green buildings within City limits by utilizing the LEED system. The first, *Pittsburgh Code, Title Nine, Zoning Chapter 915.04.F (Sustainable Development Bonuses)*, was passed in 2006 and stipulated that developers seeking LEED certification for projects will be awarded up to a 20% increase in floor area or height beyond their base zoning district.

Buildings account for 39% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 65% of waste output, and 71% of electricity consumption. By building projects certified by the USGBC's LEED rating system, building resource use may be reduced by up to 39%, 70%, and 50% respectively. GBA's Executive Director Holly Childs stated, "It is exciting to see the City of Pittsburgh moving forward to protect our natural environment and the health and safety of City residents and workers. We are very pleased with today's vote and will work with Councilman Peduto and Pittsburgh City Council to pass legislation that incentivizes and promotes green building."

During the same Pittsburgh City Council vote today, the Sustainable Development Bonuses were also modified to include the same penalty associated with the Sustainable Development for Publicly Financed Buildings ordinance. That penalty includes documented proof that a project is working towards LEED certification. Should a project not achieve LEED certification, or LEED Silver certification in the case of the Sustainable Development for Publicly Financed Buildings ordinance, the developer will be subject to a fine equal to one percent (1%) of the construction costs. If the fine is not paid within thirty days of the date it is imposed, the City will have the authority to revoke the Certificate of Occupancy for the building.

For more information about USGBC's LEED Green Building Rating System, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

For more information about GBA, visit [www.gbapgh.org](http://www.gbapgh.org)

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**About GBA**

Green Building Alliance is a nonprofit organization that advances economic prosperity and human wellbeing in Western Pennsylvania by driving market demand for green buildings and green building products across every aspect of the built environment. GBA is generously funded through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority; The Heinz Endowments; and the Richard King Mellon Foundation.