

ALPHABET SOUP OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

If you're anything like me, you may look at the barrage of acronyms used in the environmental world and think you have had a better understanding of what your alphabet soup said during elementary lunch. We have summarized some of those names that you may hear a lot and added some contact information. Feel free to provide us with any additional environmental organizations you may know.

LVSN - Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network

The Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network's mission is to create the avenues for collaboration, education, and action that will facilitate the creation of a more sustainable Lehigh Valley. The Network provides the means for organizations and individuals from the private, public, and non-profit sectors to share resources and information on sustainability issues, concerns, and strategies in order to collaborate more effectively. Contact Andrea Wittchen at andrea@lvsustainabilitysummit.org.

DVGBC - USGBC = Delaware Valley & United States Green Building Council

The Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC) is a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to transform the Delaware Valley through sustainable and environmentally responsible planning, design, construction and operation of the region's buildings, landscapes, cities, and communities, mindful of the legacy left for future generations. Contact Janet Milkman at jmilkman@dvgbc.org

LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies intended to improve performance in metrics such as energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts. Developed by the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) (USGBC), LEED is intended to provide building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations, and maintenance solutions.

ULI - Urban Land Institute

ULI is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit research and education organization supported by its members. Founded in 1936, the Institute now has members in 95 countries worldwide, representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines working in private enterprise and public service. As the preeminent, multidisciplinary real estate forum, ULI facilitates an open exchange of ideas, information, and experience among local, national, and international industry leaders and policy makers dedicated to creating better places. Contact philadelphia@uli.org

LVLRI - Lehigh Valley Land Recycling Initiative

LVEDC's Land Recycling Initiative is focused on promoting economic development through the reuse of abandoned and underutilized commercial and industrial properties, also known as Brownfields. Land recycling is one way in which LVEDC works to support smart growth, fostering economic development while protecting human health. Contact Holly Edinger at HEdinger@lehighvalley.org.

Alliance for Sustainable Communities – Lehigh Valley

The Alliance for Sustainable Communities is organizations, small businesses, and farmers concerned about the welfare of the Greater Lehigh Valley. They have come together as the Alliance for Sustainable Communities – Lehigh Valley, to work on sustaining and enhancing the quality of life in this area. Contact info@sustainlv.org. Additional information can be found at: http://www.sustainlv.org/index.cfm?organization_id=11§ion_id=85

SEF - Sustainable Energy Fund

SEF is a private non-profit organization that assists energy users in overcoming education and financial barriers to a sustainable energy future. A future in which energy is harvested, converted, distributed, and utilized, in a manner that allows all to meet their energy needs without compromising the ability of their children and grandchildren to meet their needs. Contact John Orsini at jorsini@thesef.org.

SUN*LV - Sustainable Urban Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley

SUN*LV works with organizations and residents to help support and start community gardens in neighborhoods across the Lehigh Valley. This work is accomplished through a website and social network, as well as through personal contact and collaboration with residents and a wide range of for-profit and non-profit organizations interested in promoting sustainable neighborhoods. Our intent is for community gardens to provide immediate benefits in terms of physical activity and fresh food for their participants. The gardens can also serve as neighborhood hubs that foster community building and spur economic development in our cities. Contact at info@sunlv.org. Please keep in mind that this is a volunteer project run with no staff.

SBNLV - Sustainable Business Network of Greater Lehigh Valley

SBNLV is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of local business people, professionals, individuals, social entrepreneurs, non-profit leaders, and government representatives who are committed to building a more socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable local economy. SBNLV is a member of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), a national alliance of local business networks in North America that are building sustainable economies in their region. Both BALLE and SBN are creating a different way of doing business based on local living economy principles - the triple bottom line: people, planet, and profit. Contact Julie Thomases at jthomases@yahoo.com.

BAT - Brownfield Action Team

BAT, a part of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), is responsible for expediting the remediation, reclamation, reuse, and redevelopment of Brownfields and abandoned mine lands for locally identified high priority redevelopment and reuse projects. This team at PA DEP manages and coordinates remediation program development activities, PA DEP permitting procedures and funding efforts related to redevelopment projects through matrix management of both central office and regional office directors. Contact Mr. Robert Pitcavage at rpitcavage@state.pa.us.

ACEEE - American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

The ACEEE is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting economic prosperity, energy security, and environmental protection. Contact Renee Nida at rnida@aceee.org

NFRC - National Fenestration Rating Council

NFRC is a non-profit organization that administers the only uniform, independent rating and labeling system for the energy performance of windows, doors, skylights, and attachment products. Contact at info@nfr.org.

There! That wasn't so bad. Use this as a primer to start thinking "Sustainability".

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