

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

**Contact:**

Kesha M. Pate, Public Relations Manager  
kpate@pittsburghopera.org or (412) 281-0912 ext 248

## **Pittsburgh Opera Sustainable Features and Practices** *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)* *Operations & Maintenance Certification*

### **Building and Site**

- The Company's Building Exterior and Hardscape Management Plan focuses on the application of environmentally preferable chemicals for de-icing, cleaning of reflective surfaces, use of low impact equipment (elimination of gas powered equipment) and products.
- Reduced Heat Island Effects:
  - Reflective aluminum roofing
  - 100% covered parking
  - Street tree planting along Liberty Avenue planned for this fall.
- Interior lighting timers and no exterior lighting reduces nighttime light pollution.
- Alternative Commuting Incentives:
  - Bike Rack and Shower Onsite
  - 15% of regular Opera occupants commute using alternative methods on a weekly basis.

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### **Water Efficiency**

- The Company's Water Efficient Fixtures and Fittings are 25% more efficient than the minimum required LEED O&M baseline
  - Aerators and low flow fittings have been installed.
  - The Company is also investigating the potential for dual flush valve retrofits.
- By switching to efficient fixtures prior to occupancy, the Company is saving \$300-500 dollars annually through a reduced wastewater surcharge and reduction in water usage.

*(more)*



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- 30 liters of water is used per building occupant daily, as compared to the 50 liters per building occupant national average.
- 4 gallons/per square foot of water is used annually, as compared to 8.5 gallons per square foot national average for commercial space.

## Energy Efficiency and Management

- Pittsburgh Opera is currently 23% more energy efficient than comparable cultural and entertainment spaces according the US Department of Energy national survey (CBECS).
- Pittsburgh Opera uses 195 kBtu per square foot annually as compared to national averages of comparable space types (265 kBtu/per foot/annually) resulting in an estimated monthly savings of \$500-700 dollars.
- Pittsburgh Opera is currently pursuing agreements with engineering firms to conduct ongoing building systems and thermal envelope commissioning.
  - Commissioning ensures building systems are functioning to their designed intent and owner's requirements while monitoring for deficiencies and opportunities for upgrades or retrofits of equipment.
- Energy Efficient Lighting has been installed throughout the space.
- Pittsburgh Opera is offsetting 100% of its energy usage through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) over the next two years.
  - In a grassroots effort, Pittsburgh Opera employees have volunteered to contribute to the purchase of the RECs.
  - Total cost for the two year program is \$1700, based on the company's energy consumption.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions will be quantified, reported and measured year to year.

## Materials In and Out

- 50% of the Company's ongoing consumable materials meet the sustainable purchasing criteria as defined by LEED.
- Policies requiring the purchase of sustainable furniture as well as energy star appliances and electronics, where available, are in place.
- Pittsburgh Opera has partnered with Right By Nature, a local grocer providing organic, local and sustainable products, located at 2305 Smallman Street, in the Strip District.

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- Right By Nature sponsor's Pittsburgh Opera's food and beverage needs for events and community outreach efforts.
- Right By Nature will provide sustainable boxed lunches for Pittsburgh Opera's Brown Bag Concert Series.
- The Company's Recycling Program focuses on responsibly recycling electronics and furniture waste, collects all lighting, batteries and print cartridges, and comingles other recyclable materials for collection.
- Currently Pittsburgh Opera is diverting 50% of ongoing consumable materials with a goal of 75% total waste diversion.
- The Company's goal for furniture and electronics recycling is greater than 90%.

## Indoor Environmental Quality

- Pittsburgh Opera is working with a group of engineers to ensure the building and spaces meet the Minimum American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Airflow Standard.
- The Company kept the operable windows during the building renovation.
- Occupancy Comfort is ensured through the following measures:
  - Surveys and ongoing reactive response measures
  - Ability for occupants to control lighting
  - Existing skylights and employee access to outside views
  - Limit exposure to volatile chemicals through the use of green cleaning products and equipment and Indoor Integrated Pest Management, which focuses on limiting fumigation events through routine building inspection, notifying building occupants and using least toxic options for pest control

## Innovative Operational Strategies

- Pittsburgh Opera implemented an ongoing wellness program from Highmark in collaboration with The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Shared Services in March of 2009.
  - The program promotes healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle habits with the goal of increasing general wellness and reducing the risk of chronic disease.
  - The program includes a health risk assessment, biometric screenings and the Color Your Plate program to help increase fruit and vegetable consumption to meet the latest nutrition guidelines.

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- Participants in the program compete for points and the opportunity to win one of six \$500 prizes at the end of the year.
- Pittsburgh Opera is preparing educational materials to inform the general public of the Company's efforts.
- An infrared scan and resulting report will be one of the ongoing strategies to improve building performance.

*Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 71<sup>st</sup> season in 2009-10 with Eugene Onegin, Falstaff, The Rape of Lucretia, Carmen and The Marriage of Figaro. In addition to its mainstage productions, Pittsburgh Opera produces a range of programs to engage and enrich the community with more than 20,000 students, families and educators participating in its educational events annually. The internationally renowned Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars and the company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 139-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert recitals by world-class opera singers.*

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*Beginning in August 2009, single tickets for as little as \$10*

*2009-2010 season subscriptions now for as little as \$21*

*For ticket information visit our website [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) or call (412) 281-0912*

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