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**Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens**  
**Wins Two National Top Sustainability Awards in One Month**  
**Awarded First-Ever APGA Operational Sustainability & AIA National Top Ten COTE Award**

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** — The 2016 [American Public Gardens Association](#) (APGA) Awards Committee announced today that [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) has been selected as the recipient for the Association's *first* Operational Sustainability Award. The award recognizes Phipps' outstanding dedication and achievements in promoting sustainability through programs, operations, facilities and/or research. APGA evaluated entries for their influence in the community, innovation, and applicability to the public garden world and beyond. APGA recognizes that public gardens have the ability to demonstrate leadership in the promotion of sustainability because of their recognized expertise in plants, biodiversity, and ecosystem health.

**Phipps Conservatory has the greenest buildings in the world.** That's why The American Institute of Architects (AIA) placed Phipps in their Top Ten of projects to receive the **2016 AIA's Committee on the Environment (COTE) Top Ten award** <http://www.aiaopten.org/node/507>.

Internationally recognized as a leader in sustainable buildings, practices, programs and research, Phipps sustainability efforts began in earnest in 1999 when Phipps embraced LEED as a standard for their campus plan. The [Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#) (CSL) an education, research and administration facility, is **the first and only facility globally to meet four of the world's highest green certificates: the [Living Building Challenge](#), [LEED® Platinum](#), [WELL Building Platinum](#) project (pilot) and [Four-Stars Sustainable SITES Initiative™ \(SITES™\)](#)**. As an integral part of the Phipps visitor experience, the CSL focuses attention on the important intersection between the built and natural environments, demonstrating the inextricably profound connection between humans and environmental health.

In addition to the commitment Phipps has made toward sustainable environments and exhibits, Phipps offers numerous formal and informal education programs for 400,000 visitors per year. Phipps also takes part in groundbreaking research regarding sustainability such as biophilic design, the one health movement, building performance, and green roofs by partnering with [Carnegie Mellon University](#), and the [University of Pittsburgh](#), for collaborative research projects.

For more information, please visit [phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

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