



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pittsburgh Area Teachers and Students Work to Improve Community Sustainability

PITTSBURGH, PA, November 15, 2011 – In early November, middle school teachers and students from ten area schools gathered for two days at Carnegie Science Center to participate in The Keystone Center’s Students for Sustainable Cities program. Sponsored by PPG, FedEx, and Audubon Together Green, this action-oriented initiative inspires teachers and their students to explore ways of addressing sustainability in their communities.

This two-day workshop was part of a larger curriculum unit that will run throughout the 2011-2012 school year as the program’s teacher-student teams work to build community capacity around area sustainability initiatives such as recycling, water conservation, and energy use. Using a curriculum framework designed by The Keystone Center, participants learned about sustainability concepts and analyzed needs in their own communities, exploring the ways environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality are interconnected as they crafted action plans. Teachers and students will share their plans with other students in their schools and engage other students in the community action project they have chosen. Each team receives funding to assist in implementation costs, along with support from Keystone Center staff, local organizations working on sustainability issues, and local volunteers from FedEx Ground. Between 500 and 1000 students, teachers, volunteers, and community members will be engaged in local sustainability initiatives as a result of the Pittsburgh Students for Sustainable Cities program.

Middle school students who participated in the workshop expressed great enthusiasm about the opportunity to develop their own ideas about how to improve their communities. “Absolutely fantastic,” raved Gabe Nass, an 8th grader from Mellon Middle School. “It blew my mind!”

Teachers experienced great benefit as well. “This is one of the best workshops I have attended due to the student-centered nature of the projects, lessons, and outcomes,” said Brooke Pegher, a junior and senior high school teacher in Riverview School District. “I’m excited to see where students go with the ideas that were generated and the resources they found.”

About The Keystone Center

The Keystone Center strives to solve society’s most challenging environmental, energy, and public health problems, bringing together today’s public, private, and civic sector leaders to confront these issues and instilling in the next generation the 21st Century intellectual and social skills required to effectively approach the questions they will face. Founded in 1975, The Center is a non-profit organization headquartered in Keystone, Colorado with offices in Denver, CO and Washington, DC.

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