



A BETTER CITY

CHALLENGE for SUSTAINABILITY

*Business and Institutional Leaders
Working Toward a Sustainable City*

Media Contacts:

Yve Torrie
ytorrie@abettercity.org or 617-502-6247

OR

Tricia Dinkel
tdinkel@abettercity.org or 617-502-6257

Boston Businesses Gear Up for a More Sustainable City

Sixth Annual Challenge for Sustainability Awards honor city's buildings and businesses achieving real and measurable GHG and sustainability goals

Boston, April 9, 2015 – The Commonwealth and the City of Boston continue to lead the nation in efforts to improve energy efficiency and sustainability as many leaders within the business community have committed themselves to reaching the aggressive greenhouse gas and energy use reduction goals for the region. These businesses understand that making investments in energy efficiency, working in partnership with their tenants and landlords, and sharing best practices improves their bottom lines and makes them more attractive to future tenants and employees. For many of the region's leading businesses and building owners, the Challenge for Sustainability has become a one-stop shop for the latest sustainability strategies.

Since 2009, Challenge participants have collectively **reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 15%, implemented 1,800 sustainability actions and saved more than 93 million kWh of electricity**, equaling over **\$10 million in savings**. Now in its 7th year, the program works with 105 facilities representing 46.5 million square foot of prime commercial real estate in the City.

Last night, Challenge leaders including Beacon Capital, Boston Properties, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, John Hancock, Nutter McClennen & Fish, Pembroke Real Estate, Sheraton Boston Hotel, State Street Bank, Synergy Investments, The Chiofaro Company and others, gathered at the W Hotel to honor those who've achieved the most significant reductions in greenhouse gas

emissions, along with improvements in overall sustainability. The event also featured guest speaker Alicia Barton, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

The award for Largest Energy Reduction in 2014 went to the Sheraton Boston Hotel, which implemented major LED lighting upgrades, optimized the boiler plant and developed a water conservation plan in all guest rooms. The Most Improved Challenge Score in 2014 was awarded to the John Hancock Tower, owned by Boston Properties, while Highest Overall Challenge Score went to John Hancock Manulife Financial at 197 Clarendon Street. And the award for Largest Increase in Sustainability Actions in 2014 went to Seaport East, managed by Pembroke Real Estate.

“As one of the largest real estate owners in the City of Boston and across the country, Boston Properties is always on the lookout for new strategies to increase the efficiency of our buildings,” said Mike Cantalupa, Senior Vice President of Development, Boston Properties, Inc. *“Over the last six-years the Challenge for Sustainability has proven its success amongst Boston’s commercial real estate sector. This effort is helping businesses reduce their energy costs while moving the City and State closer to achieving aggressive goals for sustaining our climate.”*

Each year, Challenge for Sustainability participants are asked to vote for an individual whose actions and leadership best meet the goals of the organization. This year the much coveted Peer Award went to Stacy Cawley at Boston Properties, 100 Federal Street.

A new award division was also introduced at the 2015 event—the “Target 2020 Leaders” award which recognizes Challenge participants who’ve achieved a 25% Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions, in keeping with the City of Boston’s Climate Action Plan goals of a 25% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 and 80% by 2050. “The City of Boston has established clear climate targets that will positively impact the environment, economic competitiveness, and quality of life of the region”, stated Rick Dimino, President & CEO of A Better City. “A Better City is privileged to work collaboratively with the City to meet its goals while helping the commercial real estate sector achieve significant energy savings.”

"The fact that these Target 2020 Leaders have already achieved a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions demonstrates that Boston's citywide 25% by 2020 reduction goal is within reach," said Austin Blackmon, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston. "I'd like to thank A Better City for supporting this work, and I'd like to congratulate these 12 properties for their leadership and commitment to helping Greenovate Boston."

The Target 2020 Leaders Award recipients are:

Organization	Facility	Date Achieved
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston	600 Atlantic Avenue	2010
The Chiofaro Company	1 International Place	2011
Tsoi / Kobus & Associates	1 Brattle Square	2011
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Dana Building	2012
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Shields Warren Building	2012
Friends of Post Office Square	Zero Post Office Square	2012
John Hancock / Manulife	197 Clarendon Street	2012
John Hancock / Manulife	601 Congress Street	2013
The Chiofaro Company	2 International Place	2013
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	Landmark Center	2014
Foley Hoag LLP	Seaport West	2014
Putnam Investments	1 Post Office Square	2014

About the Challenge for Sustainability

ABC's Challenge for Sustainability is a voluntary program that works with Boston's leading businesses, property owners and institutions to help them improve energy efficiency and reach meaningful sustainability goals, including the City of Boston's ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

The Challenge offers one-on-one engagement with participants, helps them develop a comprehensive sustainability action plan and, through its new website, provides online benchmarking tools to measure performance throughout the year. In addition, Challenge participants have opportunities to network, share best practices and assist each other in meeting a broad range of sustainability standards and practices with respect to energy efficiency, water use, transportation, waste reduction & management, cleaning & toxics, program implementation & policies, purchasing, and renewable energy.

About A Better City

A Better City (ABC) is a Boston-based, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the economic competitiveness and quality of life in Boston by advancing and providing leadership on significant transportation, land development, and environmental policies, projects, and initiatives related to the commercial real estate sector.

#