



May 31, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pittsburgh, PA – Tree Pittsburgh is pleased to announce it has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) for their Heritage Nursery on the Allegheny River. The solar panels will be added to the roof of Tree Pittsburgh’s new sustainable campus building and help the nursery to continue to lead the way for sustainable agriculture in our region. The organization received matching funds from the Next Generation Fund of the Roy A. Hunt Foundation to complete the solar array.

Tree Pittsburgh is in its final phase of fundraising for the completion of its new headquarters, itself designed to achieve LEED Platinum and Net-Zero Energy Certifications. Built on the former Tippins Steel Mill, the facility serves as a campus for the organization and includes new offices and an education center, as well as the Heritage Nursery.

With the completion of the new campus, the Heritage Nursery will grow to 3 acres (on a total 5-acre site). The tree nursery is where Tree Pittsburgh grows plant material used in the organization’s reforestation plantings, as well as for other regional organizations, land trusts, watershed groups, and municipalities. The nursery is one of a kind in the region and this grant for solar panels will continue to set the Heritage Nursery apart from other nurseries in the area.

“Due to the generous support of WPPSEF, we’ll be able to complete the solar installation on our nursery. This will allow us to power our nursery and allow us to achieve our vision of a Net-Zero Energy certified campus,” said Megan Palomo, Heritage Nursery Director. “We hope our Heritage Nursery will serve as a model for sustainable agriculture across Pennsylvania.”

Joel Morrison, WPPSEF Fund Administrator, stated: “WPPSEF is proud to work with Tree Pittsburgh to achieve a Net-Zero energy campus. The effort fits well into our mission of promoting solar PV while improving our community health. Tree Pittsburgh grew out of citizen concern for the health and wellbeing of the City’s urban forest and WPPSEF is pleased to support their vision to create a healthy urban forest for all by inspiring and engaging people to maintain, plant, and protect trees.

Tree Pittsburgh is an environmental non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing community vitality by restoring and protecting the urban forest through tree planting and care, education, and advocacy.

The **West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn

Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information. [YouTube](#) – Listen to what our project partners have to say about us.

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