



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS NETWORK OF WASHINGTON  
FOR PEOPLE, PLANET AND PROFIT

***DC Area Businesses; Greener Than You Might Think***

***Washington Gas and Community IT Innovators achieve highest level of certification from Sustainable Business Network of Washington***

Washington, D.C., (April 22, 2009) -- As part of Earth Week's celebration, the Sustainable Business Network of Washington (SB NOW) is pleased to announce that two companies; WGL Holdings, Inc., parent company of Washington Gas Light Company, and Community IT Innovators have earned the organization's highest level of green certification. They represent the first large (over 250 employees) and small (under 100 employees) businesses to earn this distinction. The offices of the Downtown D.C. Business Improvement District were the first to earn certification from SB NOW, in December 2008.

WGL Holdings Inc.'s certification reflects overall excellence in nearly every scoring category. It also differentiated itself by adopting innovative practices that include being among the first publicly traded companies in the nation to adopt e-delivery of annual meeting materials which, to date, has saved over 50 tons of paper. Savings from paper reduction, printing, and a 95 percent reduction in the number of packages delivered have reduced GHG emissions while saving nearly \$500,000. Other innovative practices include reducing travel by installing and using video-conferencing equipment, as well as establishing customer and community programs targeted at efficiency and environmental stewardship.

For 15 years, CITI has been a familiar fixture in the Shaw neighborhood, contributing to that area's economic growth while improving the environment. The company cut its energy usage nearly in half in one year through in-house green IT initiatives, including server virtualization, use of thin clients, deploying custom designed desktop power management software, and using LCD monitors instead of CRTs. At the same time, the energy that the company does use is generated 100 percent by wind power. Additionally, the company ensures that it offsets its carbon emissions by purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs).

Interest in SB NOW's Green Business Certification program has been high. The program includes both technical sustainability assistance, provided by Eco-Coach, Inc., the initiative's private sector partner, as well as an independent certification by the non-profit SB NOW. The program helps to facilitate businesses meeting the District of Columbia's City government green building mandates by supporting both LEED certification and EnergyStar rating requirements. The first group of companies is currently being certified. In response to the interest, SB NOW is creating local 'green job' growth and is training more technical advisors and certifiers to meet the demand.

"We're extremely pleased with how the business community has responded because it demonstrates the strong commitment of businesses in the DC area to improving our environment," said John Friedman, chair of SB NOW's board of directors. The organization anticipates having enough certifiers in place to meet the demand by September. "Right now we have a backlog of 80 companies that are waiting to go through our process, and are accepting reservations for the waiting list," adds Friedman.

## **SB NOW**

The Sustainable Business Network of Washington (SB NOW) was founded in 2004 as a community of businesses, non-profit leaders, professionals, academia, and government representatives dedicated to building a more socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable local economy. The organization's mission is to help make the Washington D.C. metro region a more sustainable place to live and work now -- and in the future - fully realizing its potential as a world-class capital city.

## **WGL Holdings, Inc.**

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., WGL Holdings has three operating segments: *(i)* the regulated utility segment, which primarily consists of Washington Gas, a natural gas utility that serves over one million customers throughout metropolitan Washington, D.C., and the surrounding region; *(ii)* the retail energy marketing segment which consists of Washington Gas Energy Services, Inc., a third-party marketer that competitively sells natural gas and electricity and *(iii)* the design-build energy systems segment, which consists of Washington Gas Energy Systems, Inc., a provider of design-build energy efficiency solutions to government and commercial clients.

## **Community IT Innovators**

Community IT Innovators (CITI) is an employee-owned company committed to helping social mission organizations effectively use technology. We combine expert technology services with a genuine commitment to make the world a better place. This commitment is based on our support for the missions of the organizations we work with, and a relationship of mutual respect. Since 1993, Community IT Innovators (CITI) has developed a successful, socially responsible mission-driven business model. We attract and retain highly skilled computer consultants committed to serving the nonprofit community. By combining technology expertise with a commitment to our clients' missions, we have provided unsurpassed service to more than 800 organizations.

## **Eco-Coach**

Eco-Coach is a Washington DC-based consultancy that offers corporate and residential environmental sustainability services. Services for businesses include green business assessments, sustainability planning and benchmarking, training and educational workshops, and LEED certification and consultation. Eco-Coach' mission is to make business more sustainable, and be industry leaders while saving money, improving customer and staff satisfaction and

retention, and managing risk. Clients include Fortune 500 companies as well as smaller businesses and individuals.