

BALLE Regional Gathering in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

February 25, 2010

9 am – 4 pm G

Join us!

Throughout North America, BALLE networks are effectively linking businesses to create the building blocks of a new economy. They are expanding economic opportunities, teaching sustainable business practices, educating the public about the benefits of local purchasing and investing, and reshaping economic development and public policy to be community-based, green, and fair.

The expertise for creating and growing local living economies is emerging from the ground up, and the most innovative knowledge about what is working resides with the network organizers who are pioneering this approach.

BALLE Regional Gatherings bring together innovative network organizers to share ideas and successful programs, discuss challenges, and build relationships for long-term regional success.

What will be covered?

The morning will feature two panel presentations and large group discussion, followed by an informal networking lunch. The afternoon will use small group discussion and open space technology to go deeper on the morning's topics and other topics of interest. Presentation and discussion topics will be identified in consultation with Mid Atlantic networks through planning calls taking place in late January. *Please expect to hear from BALLE staff and our local host regarding what topics would be most useful for your network!*

Panel presentations and small group discussion will focus on both organizational development (fundraising, board development, membership recruitment, etc) and programming successes in multiple local living economy building block areas.

Who should attend?

Regional Gatherings are open to all staff, volunteers, and board members of existing BALLE networks – that is, everyone it takes to make a network go! Bringing several members of your network's leadership team is highly recommended.



Credit: Kelsey Lynn & Pacific Lutheran University

REGISTRATION

You must register in advance for this program!

Registration is free for this Regional Gathering thanks to the generous support of a Geraldin R. Dodge grant to SBN Philadelphia.

Complimentary registration includes a light continental breakfast and a full lunch.

See next page for information on travel and lodging.

To register online, visit:
<http://ballephilly.eventbrite.com/>

Local Network Host

Over the past eight years, the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia has become a national leader in the local business movement and an influential force in the green economy. Their membership is made up of more than 500 companies representing over 5,000 employees in the Philadelphia region.

Since its inception in 2002, SBN has grown from a volunteer-led organization with no budget and no staff to become a thriving organization with nine staff, a budget of over \$600,000, and three departments focused on membership, educational programming and green economy. SBN has made great impact in their community, and their Green Economy Task Force – which brought together over 400 diverse stakeholders to develop a green collar job strategy that benefits both low-income people and local businesses – is nationally recognized for its innovation.

Travel and Lodging for Regional Gathering

Participants are responsible for their own travel and housing costs. There are a number of rooms available at a local hotel and limited homestay options. When you register, please let SBN Philadelphia know if you are interested in a hotel stay or homestay option.

Stay on for the Social Venture Institute!

SBN Philadelphia will hold its 8th annual Social Venture Institute (SVI) on February 26 and 27, immediately after the Regional Gathering. SVI is the only conference on the East Coast that focuses on businesses respecting three bottom lines: social prosperity, environmental stewardship, and profitability.

The format of SVI is organic and practical, as well as highly interactive and experiential. Join entrepreneurs, innovators, community organizers, government officials, investors and green business leaders as you explore social and environmental innovations, and expand your business skills and network with recognized national and regional innovators in the sustainable community.



BALLE REGIONAL HUBS

Early in 2010, BALLE is launching a new peer consulting service with four pilot networks:

- Local First (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Santa Fe Alliance (Santa Fe, NM)
- Sustainable Connections (Bellingham, WA)
- Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)

Through the BALLE Regional Hubs, all BALLE networks will have access to peer consulting on a wide range of organizational and program development issues.

The Regional Hubs will deliver network support services both in their regions of the country and according to their unique experience.

Regional Hubs will:

- Offer one-on-one consulting time for networks
- Deliver regional talks and training workshops
- Document their operations and program operations as case studies for BALLE's online learning community and training manuals, and
- Host regional calls and gatherings for peer-to-peer learning.