

## **Chestnut Hill- The Go Green Initiative**

Many of the qualities that make Chestnut Hill one of Philadelphia's most desirable neighborhoods also makes it one of the most environmentally friendly residential and business corridors in the country. It is an ideal symbiosis--combining rental apartments, moderate and high end housing, a vibrant business district of retail shops and restaurants, public parks, museums and an arboretum. Chestnut Hill's walkability score, 91 out of 100, coupled with the bucolic setting and proximity of necessities has been used as a model by city planners across the country.

Chestnut Hill businesses and non-profits continue to take a leadership role by exercising environmental awareness with a number of initiatives. The newly formed "Green Team" initiated the creation of a reusable shopping tote sponsored by local Valley Green Bank. The annual Home and Garden Festival has added a Green Vendor section to highlight sustainable products such as solar panels. An army of student recycling ambassadors from local schools have been recruited to help collect recyclables during the festival and highlight Philadelphia's single stream recycling program. The Chestnut Hill Business Association in conjunction with the Mt Airy Business Association has hosted several informational seminars focused on trash reduction, water conservation and composting.

In addition, many of our restaurants and bakeries support local farmers such as Lancaster Farm Fresh and the weekly Buy Fresh Buy Local farmer's market. Chestnut Hill is now home to four LEED Platinum certified town homes recently built by the Woodward Company. The non profit Morris Arboretum is in the midst of creating a permanent outdoor exhibition called **Tree Adventure**. This exhibition will highlight the critical role trees play in our environment while creating a wonderful family activity.

These are just a few of the many initiatives in the works to keep our neighborhood (and planet) beautiful and sustainable.

**<http://greeninchestnuthill.blogspot.com> (GRINCH)**