



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PHIPPS CONSERVATORY BANS BOTTLED WATER**

(Pittsburgh, Pa.)— Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens recently made the eco-conscious decision to discontinue the sale and use of bottled water in the entire Conservatory. Café Phipps now offers corn-based compostable cups and sells reusable bottles for filtered water.

With the opening of the silver LEED-certified Welcome Center in 2005, Café Phipps, made the decision to exclusively sell locally bottled water; alleviating some of the high energy costs associated with the production and shipping processes.

Ultimately, as a leader in environmental stewardship, Phipps believes the complete removal of bottled water is a fundamental initiative to reduce its carbon footprint. “As a model of sustainability in the community we wish to educate our visitors with ways in which they can reduce human impact on the environment.” said Phipps’ executive director, Richard V. Piacentini. “Eliminating bottled water from the Conservatory is another example of going above and beyond our dedication to green buildings.”

The “plastic cups” now offered in the café are corn-based and provide an excellent substitute to bottled water. In ideal composting conditions the cups will biodegrade within fifty days, taking up significantly less room in a landfill. The Café also invites visitors to make their own bottled water with their Phipps reusable bottles. The filtered water is a similar system used to make bottled water; removing harmful chemicals such as chlorine and VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). Phipps also banned the use of bottled water at all meetings and events.

#### **Other Green Initiatives**

As a pioneer in sustainability, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens opened the first U.S. LEED-certified visitor center in a public garden in 2005 and the world’s most energy efficient Conservatory in 2006. In 2008, Phipps also announced Project Green Heart; an initiative to educate professional landscapers and homeowners on using sustainable landscape practices. Recently accepting the Living Building Challenge from the Cascadia chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, Phipps will break ground on The Center for Sustainable Landscapes on September 18, 2008. The building will raise standards for green building design and has the potential to be the greenest building in the world.

**About Phipps**

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is a Victorian glasshouse, gardens and tropical forest conservatory in the Schenley Park area of Pittsburgh. Phipps is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 10 p.m. on Fridays. Café Phipps and The Shop at Phipps are open during all Conservatory hours. Daytime admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors (62 and over) and students with ID, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 18. Phipps members and children under two are admitted free. For more information, call (412) 622-6914 or visit [www.phipps.conservatory.org](http://www.phipps.conservatory.org).

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