

The Sustainability Workshop

From After-school to School Day

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Inner city students and award-winning cars. What do they have in common? Ground breaking education that works.

13 years ago, Simon Hauger founded the EVX Team, an after-school program that builds and competes with alternative fuel vehicles. The team has won national titles, gotten a ton of press and has even attracted the attention of the President of the United States.

More important than the cars we've built and the attention we've attracted are the educational outcomes for the students. When students are given the opportunity to tackle real-world problems and learn the science and technology behind the cars they build, the results are amazing.

Our work lead us to envision what we could



accomplish working with students for the entire school day rather than a few hours a week.

A partnership with the Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster (GPIC) for Energy Efficient Buildings will let us do just that. On September 6, 2011, The Sustainability Workshop will open at The Navy Yard in Philadelphia, and we will be able to show the power of the educational model the EVX Team has used with such success.

The Workshop takes the core elements of EVX—real projects, hands-on learning, and close collaboration among teachers and students—and places them at the center of the school day. Utilizing this innovative educational approach, there is no limit to what students can accomplish.

To hear what President Obama said about our team and our educational model, please visit the EVX Team website:

www.evxteam.org.

The Sustainability Workshop at Quarters A



We're thrilled to announce The Sustainability Workshop's location! Quarters A is a unique three story building located just inside the Navy Yard's gates in its historic district. The building's flexible floor plan and on-site garage provide an environment perfectly suited to our collaborative, hands-on approach to education.

Our vital partnership with the GPIC makes this location ideal. Our location at the

Navy Yard will enable our students to experience the cutting-edge work of the GPIC as they take energy efficiency in building and architecture to a new level.

By combining rigorous and challenging classroom work with real projects in sustainability, our students will be prepared not only for post-secondary education, but to take their places in the green economy.

“The need for innovative alternatives to traditional high schools could not be greater.”



The Sustainability Workshop

The Sustainability Workshop (Workshop) is a highly innovative pilot project that provides a challenging, rigorous and engaging educational experience to a small group of high school seniors. Beginning in September 2011, the project will allow 30 students to spend their entire senior year at The Navy Yard’s Clean Energy Campus, working on cutting edge projects focused on improving the energy efficiency of building design, construction, and renovation. The Workshop is being launched with three major partners:

The **Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster (GPIC)**, a \$122 million initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and its managing partner Penn State University are our founding partners. The

GPIC’s goals are to improve energy efficiency and operability and reduce carbon emissions of new and existing buildings, and to stimulate private investment and quality job creation in the greater Philadelphia region. The GPIC will connect students to real projects focused on green design and construction.

The **School District of Philadelphia** will grant the students course credits equivalent to what they would receive attending their home high school for the year.

Drexel University will provide Workshop students with the opportunity to enroll in college courses at Drexel during the year.

The project has two major goals. First, the Workshop will prepare students to be successful either in college or a career related to green design

and construction. Second, students at the Workshop will make real and tangible contributions to the work of GPIC partner organizations.

The need for innovative alternatives to traditional high schools could not be greater. While the magnitude and implications of the dropout crisis are well publicized, less attention has been given to the dismal outcomes for those students who actually graduate from urban high schools. A recent study found that only one quarter of all graduates matriculate into post-secondary education, and, of those, less than half make it through their first year. Clearly, we need a new approach, not only to prevent students from dropping out, but to ensure that those who finish high school are prepared to succeed at the next level.

“By combining rigorous and challenging classroom work with real projects, our students will be prepared not only for post-secondary education, but to take their places in the new green economy.”

Building on Success

The Sustainability Workshop is the product of over a decade of experience combining project-based learning with green technology in an urban high school. Founded in 1998 as a summer project, the West Philadelphia High School EVX team has spent the last decade designing, building, and racing alternative energy vehicles, winning the Tour de Sol, the nation’s largest alternative energy vehicle race, three times.

In 2010, the team reached the semi-finals of the Progressive Automotive X PRIZE competition, outperforming elite universities and well-funded, private companies. In the spring of 2011, they won the Green Grand Prix at Watkins Glen International, where their sports car achieved over 100 miles per gallon. This year, the team also won the Clean Energy division of Conrad Foundation’s Spirit of Innovation Awards, an international competition that challenges high school students to create innovative products using science technology and entrepreneurship to solve real world 21st century problems.

To read more about the EVX Team, please take a look at our [press archive](#). While you are visiting the EVX Team website, we’d like you to look at the organizations that have sponsored our work. They are at www.evxteam.org/sponsors. For more information, please contact Simon Hauger at: simon.hauger@workshopschool.org.



The Navy Yard has a 125 year history in Philadelphia. It is a regional economic hub that has significant growth potential. The Navy Yard's 1,200 acres, over seven miles of waterfront, workforce of 8,000 in over 100 companies, 5.5 million

square feet of facilities and more than \$500 million of private investment provide an atmosphere that can be found nowhere else.

The GPIC chose The Navy Yard as the test bed for its work because of the diversity of buildings

of every type – old and new, large and small office, retail and manufacturing – and an independent electric grid. The GPIC will also take advantage of the existing academic, federal research, private sector and government partnerships through The Navy Yard Clean Energy Campus. These initiatives will set a national standard for research, education and commercialization of both clean and energy efficient technologies.

In September, The Sustainability Workshop opens at the Navy Yard where its innovative education will allow Philadelphia students to take their place in the important work of the



Program Leadership

In year one, the Sustainability Workshop will be staffed by two full-time educators, each with an extensive background in urban high school education.

Simon Hauger has led the award winning West Philadelphia High School Hybrid X Team that was recently recognized by President Obama for cutting edge impact on education. He has over 17 years experience teaching and leading students in complex projects in alternative fuel vehicle technology. Simon has also designed and implemented project-based curricula for a variety of public schools in Philadelphia. He is certified in secondary mathematics and science and holds a current Principal's Certification.

Michael Clapper has worked with Philadelphia youth in a variety of capacities – teacher, social worker, counselor – since 1993. A historian by training, for the past four years,

Michael has taught at Saint Joseph's University, working with pre-service teachers and researching the history of metropolitan education. He is certified in secondary social studies and English language arts.

Two additional co-founders of the Workshop will provide design and development support during the pilot phase of the project. As the pilot grows into a full school, both will eventually join as full-time staff.

Matthew Riggan is a Senior Researcher in the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. In addition to extensive program evaluation expertise, he has experience designing community problem-solving projects and curricula, and serves on the Board of Directors of YESPhilly, a nonprofit organization serving out of school youth.

C. Aiden Downey is a Professor of Education and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Division of Educational Studies at Emory University. His work focuses on teachers, teaching, reflective learning and democratic education. He has also taught high school science in Philadelphia, and is certified to teach secondary biology, chemistry, physics and physical science. Prior to entering the education field, he was stationed as a Marine at the former Philadelphia Naval Base.

“We work together as a community of learners solving real problems.”



The Sustainability Workshop

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The Sustainability Workshop is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization founded by EVX Team Director Simon Hauger. The mission of The Sustainability Workshop is to challenge and equip students to work together to take on the world's toughest problems. Our collaborative approach is the basis of teaching and learning at The Sustainability Workshop. We are committed to demonstrating the effectiveness of this educational model as an alternative to the lack of success that characterizes so many urban high schools.

For more information about The Sustainability Workshop, please contact:

Simon Hauger at 215-605-6850.

Supporting The Sustainability Workshop



The Sustainability Workshop will open on September 6, 2011. We invite you to learn more about our past work, our school and our educational philosophy. Over the past 13 years, the EVX Team has forged many important partnerships

that have supported our work. Please look at our list of [Sponsors and Friends](#), all of whom contributed to the success of our program and our students.

Over the next year we will cultivate our existing partnerships and build new ones. Our relationship with the GPIC, The Navy Yard, Drexel University, the Philadelphia School District and Penn State University are providing us a great opportunity to expand our network of supporters.

For more information about The Sustainability Workshop or to learn how you can support our important educational work, please contact Simon Hauger directly at 215-605-6850 or email him at:

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