


SAVE 20% on all online printing purchases. [Get printing now](#)



Replay ad

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
ACCESS PREMIUM CONTENT ONLINE
4 FREE ISSUES



PHILADELPHIA BUSINESS JOURNAL

Choose Another City:

Site | News | Videos | Jobs
Keywords [GO](#) [Search Archive](#)

- HOME
- NEWS
- SMALL BUSINESS
- SALES & MKTG
- REAL ESTATE
- EVENTS
- DIRECTORY
- CAREERS
- TRAVEL
- MORE TOPICS

U.S. business news Meet Your Biz Goals

[Twitter feed](#) [Daily Update](#) [Book of Lists](#) [Subscribe - 4 Free Issues](#)

IN DEPTH:

[Philadelphia](#) > [Print Edition](#) > [Industries](#) > [Green](#)

[Subscribe to Philadelphia Business Journal](#)

Friday, April 9, 2010 | Modified: Monday, April 12, 2010, 7:00am EDT

Energy & The Environment

Synergy and critical mass propel local clean tech sector

Philadelphia Business Journal - by [Peter Key](#) Staff Writer

[Print](#) [Email](#) [Reprints](#) [RSS Feeds](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Share](#) [Comments](#)

Related News

[Most from DreamIt's class of 2008 are still working ideas](#)

[DreamIt Ventures makes another go at hatching firms](#)

[BJ50: No. 4. On Call Staffing](#)

[PJM opposes Duquesne Light pull out request](#)

["We have something special here in Philadelphia"](#)

Find Executives

[Academy of Natural Sciences](#)

[Hobbs & Towne Inc.](#)

[Blank Rome](#)

Efforts to make the area a clean-technology hub are gaining momentum.

Entrepreneurial interest was in evidence last month at [wBlank Rome's](#) 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Cleantech Investment Forum at the [wAcademy of Natural Sciences](#).

Between 350 and 400 people attended, up from 150 to 175 last year. Six companies presented and six exhibited, double the number of the previous year, and organizers said 25 applied to present or exhibit, despite no great effort to solicit participants.

"With more awareness and people getting together to bolster it, I think it can certainly continue to take hold," said organizer Thomas Dwyer, who founded a clean-tech practice at Blank Rome with another partner in the Center City law firm, Louis Rappaport.

Another indication of interest is that the clean-tech sector already has a group devoted to it. Cleantech Alliance Mid-Atlantic held six events last year which drew, on average, 200 people.

The alliance was started by Kevin Brown, a senior partner at the Valley Forge office of [wHobbs & Towne Inc.](#), an executive search firm specializing in the clean-tech industry, along with Scott Edward Anderson, the founder and principal of VerdeStrategy, which works with clean-tech companies.

"There were a lot of people and companies involved in this space throughout the region,



Curt Hudson
Andrew Daga of Momentum Dynamics.
[View Larger](#)

25th Anniversary



ADVANCED
STAGING PRODUCTIONS

SO MUCH MORE THAN AV

Event Technology Management
...what AV Companies can't deliver.

Search for Jobs powered by onTargetJobs

[Search](#)

[View Philadelphia Jobs - 1347 jobs today](#)

DailyUpdate Get the latest local business news delivered to your inbox every afternoon

Email Address

[Get the Philadelphia DailyUpdate newsletter](#)

SITE SECTIONS

[Small Business Center](#)

[Visit the Small Business Center](#)

[Entrepreneur Success Stories](#)

[Find out how they made it](#)

[Daily](#)

Click here to discover how much you can save.



but they didn't know each other," Anderson said.

The region has an impressive and growing set of natural and economic assets to offer clean-tech companies.

Geographically, Philadelphia is located between Washington, D.C., where energy policy gets made, and New York City, where it gets financed. Its position in the Boston-to-Washington megalopolis puts it in one of the most densely populated, and therefore largest power-consuming areas, in the country. That adds up to a lot of potential buyers for energy-efficiency technology, from construction materials to demand-management software, and for clean energy, as the area's businesses, universities, government agencies and building owners look to reduce their carbon footprints.

Additionally, Philadelphia is home to [PJM Interconnection](#), the Valley Forge-based nonprofit that manages the largest electrical grid in North America. In addition to being a possible customer for energy-management technologies, it's a source of people to lead companies that develop them, such as Audrey Zibelman, its former chief operating officer, who founded Conshohocken-based smart grid implementer [Viridity Energy Inc.](#)

At least four locally based venture-capital firms specialize in clean-tech investing, as well. Blank Rome's Rappaport said a growing number of the wealthy individual investors called angels are starting to make clean-tech investments.

The energy policies of Pennsylvania and New Jersey are favorable to the clean-tech sector. Both states have laws in place that require power suppliers to get an increasing amount of their electricity from alternative or renewable generation methods over time.

Additionally, the administration of Gov. Ed Rendell sees clean technology as a major tool for economic development. That has resulted in efforts not only to attract firms to the area, but to fund clean-tech development, too.

For example, [Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania](#), a state-funded economic-development organization, is investing up to \$750,000 in seed and early-stage companies trying to commercialize alternative-energy and clean technologies.

It also is working on making the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where it is based, and the Bridge Business Center in Bristol centers for distributed power production and management, sustainable building systems development and smart-grid development.

Ben Franklin's work on distributed power management at the Navy Yard is being led by [Pennsylvania State University](#), includes the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center, and has received \$700,000 from the state.

Penn State also is receiving \$5.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish two clean-tech centers at the Navy Yard. It's getting \$2 million for the Mid-Atlantic Clean Energy Applications Center, which will promote the adoption of clean-energy technology by industry and government in six Mid-Atlantic states, and \$3.5 million to establish the Mid-Atlantic Solar Resource and Training Center.

Other schools in the area also are jumping on the clean-technology bandwagon.

For instance, Drexel is working with Viridity on the company's power-management system, which Viridity has deployed at its campus. Additionally, Drexel's College of Engineering is hosting the Advanced Energy Leadership Conference, which concludes Friday, and looks at the future of energy in the area with a focus on advanced-energy and grid-management technologies.

Clean Tech Pioneers

The area's clean-technology companies come in all sizes and from a wide range of

Daily Update
[Sign up for the Daily Update](#)


Company Watch
[Get started now](#)

Featured Philadelphia Jobs powered by Philadelphia HelpWanted.com

- Pharmacy Supervisor - Cancer Treatment Centers of America
- C/C++ Software Developer Interview Day - Bloomberg
- RN-PACU - Cancer Treatment Centers of America
- View Open Opportunities - AT&T
- VP, Nursing Services - Cancer Treatment Centers of America

[Search Jobs](#) | [Post Resume](#) | [View More](#)

[Post a Job](#) | [Feature a Job](#)

SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYER 

Verizon Wireless

We're a company whose values - Integrity, Respect, Performance Excellence, and Accountability - guide the actions of every member of our team, and serve as a source of pride. They are a reflection of our determination to provide superior solutions to all of our global clients.

With so many opportunities within so many disciplines, there's certain to be a position that's just right for you at Verizon Wireless.

Visit www.verizonwireless.com/careers to learn more or visit our [Profile Page](#)



ADVANCED STAGING PRODUCTIONS

SO MUCH MORE THAN AV

Event Technology Management
 ...what AV Companies can't deliver.

FREE RESEARCH

[Online Marketing Best Practices: Going Beyond the Email Blast to Promote a Rich Customer Experience](#)

industries. Ones that have or plan to have sizable operations in the include:

Two large Spanish wind-energy firms, [Gamesa Corporación Tecnológica](#), which makes wind turbines at its plant in Fairless Hills, and wind-farm operator [Iberdrola SA](#), which has an office in Wayne.

[Comverge Inc.](#), an East Hanover, N.J.-based provider of power demand management services to commercial and industrial companies that entered the area nearly two years ago when it bought Enerwise Global Technologies Inc. of Kennett Square.

Two electric-car makers: Fisker Automotive of Irvine Corp., which is taking over a former General Motors Corp. plant in Newark, Del., and CT&T Co. Ltd. of Korea, which is looking for a site on the Delaware River for its first plant in the United States.

HelioSphera, an Athens, Greece, maker of solar panels that plans to open a plant at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

[Momentum Dynamics Corp.](#), a Malvern company that is developing mats that wirelessly transmit electricity to the batteries of electric cars parked over them. “We think what we have is the equivalent of a killer app in the clean-tech revolution,” said Andrew Daga, its founder and CEO, who presented at Blank Rome’s CleanTech Forum.

pkey@bizjournals.com | 215-238-5141


[7 Tips to Boost Online Conversion](#)

[10 Questions to Ask a Live Chat Provider](#)


[Credit Card Processing: Receive quotes from 5 vendors and download a Step-by-Step Guide](#)

see more whitepapers... [ADD WHITE PAPERS](#)

Ads by **Adblade**™



Why do your Joints hurt?
Suffering with joint pain? Click here. Shocking joint relief discovery by Cambridge, MA researchers...
[Learn more](#)



Pennsylvania Drivers Overpay?
6/17: Obama backs new insurance regulation. See if you qualify for new 2010 rates starting at \$1/day
[Learn more](#)

Add Your Link Here!

[Contact the Editor](#) |
 [Need Assistance?](#) |
 [More Latest News →](#)

Most Read Stories

- [Krispy Kreme bringing its doughnuts back to Philadelphia, 21 locations planned](#)
- [Just before merger with First Niagara, Harleysville National sells Cornerstone](#)
- [First Niagara completes purchase of Harleysville National](#)
- [Food Network star Bobby Flay has recipe for new burger restaurant in Phila.](#)
- [LECG-Smart holding job fair Thursday in Devon, will hire 50](#)

Most Emailed Stories

- [NVR offers \\$170M for Orleans Homebuilders](#)
- [Krispy Kreme bringing its doughnuts back to Philadelphia, 21 locations planned](#)
- [Philadelphia Daily News to launch a weekend edition in fall](#)
- [Philadelphia Orchestra creates chief of staff position, fills it](#)
- [Stumar's sleuths are on the case](#)

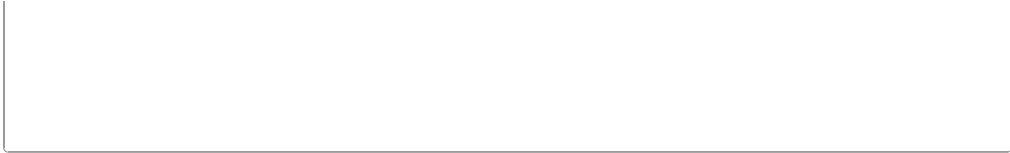
Add New Comment



bizjournals Nicole K.

[Logout](#)

0 comments 0 likes 1 point



Post as Nicole K.

Showing 0 comments

Sort by Newest first [Subscribe by email](#) [Subscribe by RSS](#)

comments powered by [DISQUS](#)

bizjournals Partners

Find local hot spots in over 40 cities

Brought to you by **ORACLE**

CITY GUIDE SPOTLIGHT - PHILADELPHIA

[Attractions in Philadelphia](#)
[Cocktails in Philadelphia](#)
[Hotels in Philadelphia](#)
[Restaurants in Philadelphia](#)

Sponsored by:

Philadelphia Real Estate powered by [LoopNet](#)

Featured Property
 Rate: \$16.00-\$16.00
 Building Size: 27,070 SF
 Use Type: Lease

→ [More Philadelphia Real Estate](#)

Save time or save money?
 The short answer: save both. Learn more. [Bank of America.](#)

Search Press Releases

- [View all Philadelphia Press Releases](#)
- [View ALL Press Releases](#)

Search by Company, Organization, or Keyword

Content provided by PR Newswire. [Learn more about this service.](#)

Use of, or registration on, this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement and Privacy Policy.

ONLINE: [home](#) | [business news](#) | [small business](#) | [sales & marketing](#) | [real estate](#) | [events](#) | [directory](#) | [careers](#) | [city guide](#) | [advertise](#) | [about us](#) | [rss](#)
PRINT: [subscribe](#) | [renew](#) | [advertise](#) | [book of lists](#) | [business intelligence](#) | [classifieds](#) | [view digital edition](#) | [article reprints rights](#) | [purchase single copies](#)
AFFILIATES: [Portfolio](#) | [SportsBusiness Journal](#) | [SportsBusiness Daily](#) | [Sporting News](#) | [Mass High Tech](#) | [TechFlash](#)

© 2010 [American City Business Journals](#), Inc. and its licensors. All rights reserved. The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of bizjournals.