

NEW YORK, NY, September 28, 2013 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- The New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council (The Council) will host its Third Annual Sustainability Summit 2013: Expanding Green Innovations, showcasing exciting innovative opportunities for diverse green businesses on Wednesday, October 9 from 9am - 5pm at BNY Mellon, 101 Barclay Street in New York City.

At The Council's Sustainability Summit, leading experts from fashion, 3-D printing, sports, construction, real estate, and data industries will explain how they look for ways to create energy efficiency, reduce environmental impacts and engage innovative companies in their green efforts. The government of Taiwan will also host the Summit Opening Reception to showcase its ethnic vendors as the "diverse green solution" for sustainable practices. The Summit will feature a "Shark Tank" style segment, the Sustainability Opportunity Arena, with suppliers pitching their green-tech products and sustainable services to venture capital firms, investment funds and environmental thought-leaders. Attendees are offered a special rate for Green Courses e-learning tools, interactive green courses that offer a certificate program.

"Diverse small/ medium enterprises (SMEs) need to reposition their business' brand with 'sustainable' practices to attract new client opportunities," said Kevin V.G. Wells, General Counsel and Director of MBE Services for The Council and an environmental attorney, who launched the Sustainability Summit. "It's also equally important for major brands to see how the diversity/ inclusion model under sustainability aligns with their Corporate Social Responsibility goals."

"This year, the Sustainability Summit is extremely proud to partner with the Taipei Economic & Cultural Affairs Office and the Taiwan Green Trade Project under its Ministry of Economic Affairs," said Wells.

The sports industry spans food, memorabilia, stadiums, media rights and corporate sponsorships. Mike Lynch, managing director of green innovation for NASCAR; Frank Supovitz, senior vice president of events for the National Football League and Adam Lansky of Major League Baseball will be discussing how sports associations are making concerted efforts to instill sustainable operations through its purchasing, internal operations and venues. In the Fashion Industry, there are hidden supply chain environmental risks--from the factory collapse in Bangladesh to harmful chemicals used in the beauty industry to clothing's environmental impact from washing and drying. Fashion and style panelists include: Gail O'Neill, former HGTV host and current contributor to Southern Seasons magazine; Amy Hall, director of Social Consciousness for women's clothing designer Eileen Fisher; Scott Mackinlay Hahn, co-Founder of Loomstate and Tabitha St. Bernard, co-founder and designer of award-winning Tabii Just, a zero waste sustainable clothing line. John Frey, Americas Sustainability executive at Hewlett-Packard Company and Paul Bonaro, director of data center operations at Yahoo! will

discuss sustainable solutions powering down the energy in data centers. R. Donahue Peebles, founder of The Peebles Corporation, will examine sustainable trends in commercial realty. Other panels are: 3D printing and GRI reporting & guidelines. The Summit's keynote speakers will be Jigar Shah, author of *Creating Climate Wealth* and CEO of Climate Wealth LLC and Bruce E. Mosler, chairman of global brokerage, Cushman & Wakefield. In addition, the Summit conducts one-on-one targeted matchmakers for corporations seeking innovative vendors to expand their respective green supply chains.

"Each year, The Council receives success stories about sustainable business partnerships created through the Summit. Ben Berry, whose company AirShip Technologies Group, based in Oregon, developed an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle that eliminates the need to carry onboard fuel because of renewable solar energy with rechargeable ultracapacitors. It was an incredible Summit discovery that aided in propelling his company," said Wells. "By attending this one-day event, attendees will be immersed in innovative sustainability trends and ideas that cover a range of industries. This Summit is an invitation and challenge to all enterprises to create sustainable partnerships between innovative minority suppliers and the Fortune 500. It's a necessity in order to remain viable in the 21st century."

Sponsors for the Sustainability Summit include: BNY Mellon, Con Edison, SHI, World Wide Technology Inc. Cameron-Cole and the Taiwan Green Trade Project Office of Economic Affairs.

The Sustainability Summit will include full breakfast and lunch. The General admission: \$90.00, student: \$50, Council-certified MBE \$75.00 and corporate: \$150.00. For more information, contact The Council at (212) 502-5663 or register online at <http://www.nynjcouncilgreen.com>

About The Council The New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council, an award-winning affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, certifies Asian-American, African American, Hispanic-American and Native-American-owned businesses to be eligible to compete for major corporate contracts. The Council has over 200 corporate members, encompasses Fortune 500 corporations, educational institutions and government agencies including New York State, New York City and the State of New Jersey. The Council's jurisdiction spans from New York State through Trenton, New Jersey. Currently, there are approximately 1,300 New York and New Jersey minority-owned businesses with annual revenues from \$100,000 to \$2 billion that are certified by The Council.