

**For Immediate Release:**

April 30, 2015

**Contact:**

Mary Flannery  
215.937.5424

mary.flannery@phl.org

## **PHL Earth Day Event Promotes Green-Friendly Habits**

*Travelers and employees are encouraged to reduce carbon footprint*

**PHILADELPHIA** – To commemorate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) hosted its annual environmental celebration to inform and encourage travelers and employees to reduce their respective carbon footprints.

The event, “Celebrate Earth Day at PHL!” was held on April 22, across from the food court on the B/C Connector. More than a dozen exhibitors provided a combination of information and fun activities to those who were heading to their next destination or their next work assignment.

Exhibits featured games, prizes and giveaways – all with a sustainability theme. Exhibitors at the event included the Clean Air Council, the Delaware County Transportation Management Association, Division of Aviation, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, PECO, Pennsylvania Resource Council, Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, Philadelphia Gas Works, Philadelphia Marketplace, Philadelphia Prisons Compost program, Philadelphia Water Department and the Philadelphia Zoo.

Among the thousands of PHL and airline employees, two were recognized by their peers for their commitment to conservation. Airport employee John Brewer and Michael Venuto of American Airlines received special awards for their leadership in developing and implementing sustainability initiatives that have conserved energy and reduced waste.

Brewer, operations manager of the Northeast Philadelphia Airport (PNE), is the recipient of the 2015 Division of Aviation Employee Earth Day Award. He was chosen by his peers to receive this year’s award based on his exemplary performance for complying with environmental regulations at PNE. Brewer has inspired PNE tenants to develop and maintain an unblemished record of compliance over the last 18 months. His leadership is credited to helping PNE’s largest tenant, Agusta Westland, develop green infrastructure and practices during the rapid expansion of its facilities.

- more -

**Earth Day/2**

**Contact:**

Mary Flannery  
215.937.5424  
mary.flannery@phl.org

Venuto, Facilities Manager for American Airlines, is the recipient of the 2015 Division of Aviation Tenant Employee Earth Day Award. He was nominated by his peers for his work spearheading American Airlines' recycling program. In 2014, more than 1,000 tons of waste was recycled, which is approximately 19 percent of waste generated by American Airlines and its merged partner US Airways. In addition, American recycles light bulbs, batteries, tires, waste oil, antifreeze, scrap metal, and other recyclable equipment.

The Airport's Custodial Unit won the annual paper-shredding "Clean Out Your Files" contest for recycling 1,296 pounds of paper. Overall, five units competed and 2,539 pounds of paper were recycled.

"Learning about energy conservation should be fun and I'm pleased that we were able to develop a mix of informative and entertaining exhibits," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "Even the smallest change to your normal routine can have a significant impact on our environment."

PHL is committed to sustainability through numerous short- and long-term initiatives, he added. These initiatives have resulted in cost savings to the Airport.

"We have demonstrated that energy conservation has improved the bottom line at the Airport," Gale said. "I am hoping that others follow our example and enjoy the savings to their household budgets."

- more -

**Earth Day/3**

**Contact:**  
Mary Flannery  
215.937.5424  
mary.flannery@phl.org



*A PECO Smart Ideas representative shares information with travelers at Earth Day event.*

This year, Philadelphia International Airport celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its commercial air service. In 1940, the Airport served 40,000 passengers flying to a handful of cities. Today, more than 30 million passengers travel annually to 131 destinations around the world.

*Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.*