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January 26, 2010
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WILLIAM PENN GRANT SUPPORTS ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES' ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROGRAM

PHILADELPHIA—The Academy of Natural Sciences today announced the receipt of a grant from the William Penn Foundation to help expand its role in enhancing public awareness, decision-making and activism on critical environmental issues.

The \$120,000 grant for the Academy's Center for Environmental Policy will support expansion of its popular Town Square series of lectures, forums and panel discussions that bring together experts, stakeholders and the public for discussions of environmental and scientific topics. Since its inception in October 2008, the center has sponsored 45 public programs on topics ranging from wildlife conservation to recycling and attended by more than 5,700 people.

Roland Wall, director of the center, said the additional funds will allow the Academy to more directly provide Philadelphia government leaders, businesses executives and grassroots organizations with scientific information and organizational support to pursue sound environmental agendas. For example, the Academy will work closely with city leaders to help implement its sustainability initiatives and its Greenworks initiative to create jobs and reduce the city's environmental footprint.

"This is a very exciting time in Philadelphia, with government, business and the community recognizing the importance of environmental integrity and sustainability," Wall said. "The Academy and the Center for Environmental Policy are uniquely positioned to support this movement, applying scientific expertise, public credibility and a well-known institutional identity to a variety of critical issues."

Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas. Located in the heart of Philadelphia's cultural district, the Academy is known for its scientific research, collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

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The William Penn Foundation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that foster rich cultural expression, strengthen children's futures, and deepen connections to nature and community. In partnership with others, the Foundation works to advance a vital, just and caring community.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. ADMISSION: \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"