



### **Alex Cupo, GSI Partners Manager, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia**

Alex works for SBN as the GSI Partners Manager. Alex joined SBN with an extensive background in community engagement and outreach, policy advocacy, and stormwater management. Since 2016, he's worked across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the City of Pittsburgh and as a Southeast PA Outreach Coordinator for PennFuture. Most recently, Alex worked as a Water Programs Coordinator for Wissahickon Trails assisting homeowners and municipalities with implementing green stormwater infrastructure best practices.

In his work with SBN, Alex leads the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) program. GSI is a nature-based approach to stormwater management. SBN's GSI Partners is a network of local businesses in the region in the GSI industry, including firms in design, construction, and maintenance, as well as material supply. SBN, via the GSI Partners, is working to advance the local industry and innovation, thereby amplifying the environmental, social, and economic impact in the region. SBN is the only business organization working to ensure that the greenest approaches to stormwater management are facilitated and incentivized as much as possible, and that the public and private investments in the industry are spent with local firms.

Through his work as the GSI Partners Manager, Alex holds quarterly GSI Partner meetings to collaborate and connect those with both expertise and interest in solving some of the toughest water issues in our region. His programming efforts at SBN are always quick to share successful GSI projects, best practices, and future project ideas outwardly so that the larger community can learn from and appreciate the efforts involved in this work.

Some of Alex's key achievements over his three years as GSI Partners Manager include:

- To highlight the most stellar GSI projects, Alex develops a semi-annual Excellence in GSI Award ceremony, which is the region's only award ceremony recognizing the projects and people that bring the triple bottom line (environmental, social, and economic) benefits of green stormwater infrastructure to life. The ceremony also celebrates all the project partners that make them possible. This event gathers the region's industry professionals, developers and property owners, government and non-profit institutions, and academics to acknowledge and celebrate the region's excellence in green stormwater infrastructure. Awards are given to projects in the following categories: Public Projects, Private Projects, and Innovation, and a slate of featured speakers address the crowd.
- From 2022-2023, Alex led an effort to develop a white paper entitled, "Improving GSI

Outcomes from Redevelopment in Philadelphia,”. This white paper was developed with The Water Center at Penn & The Nature Conservancy and was presented with an accompanying Redevelopment Process Visualization Guide at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC).

- In 2024, Alex developed and hosted a sold-out day-long conference, titled "*Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water*". The event convened business-owners, professionals, and other interested parties that work in the green stormwater infrastructure field and other issues relating to water management, quality, equity, and climate resilience. Attendees learned how to more effectively implement and manage stormwater management practices (SMPs), as well as identify new approaches to green stormwater infrastructure. They learned how water management impacts our waterways and drinking water, gained a deeper knowledge of the regulatory frameworks that support nature-based solutions and learned about the financing and funding mechanisms that exist to advance the industry forward.

Alex holds a passion for sustainability and addressing climate change impacts on regional and community scales, and his work with the GSI Partners group at SBN exemplifies our ideal model of a climate champion. Alex received a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from the University of Pittsburgh, with a minor in Political Studies and a certificate for Global Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Development and Latin American history.