



Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist Sustainable Landscape Certified (PCH-SLC) Fact Sheet



The following are some commonly asked questions concerning the PCH – Sustainable Landscapes Certification:

What is a Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist – Sustainable Landscape Certification?

The PCH-Sustainable Landscape Certification is an additional professional certification in one of the fastest growing areas of horticulture. A PCH-SLC not only has the deep understanding of plants and their care and use in the landscape, but additional specialized knowledge about how plants can be used most effectively to provide ecosystem services that improve water quality, air quality and enhance human health and performance. A PCH-SLC must maintain their certification through a program of continuing education credits to ensure his/her ongoing knowledge and expertise as a professional in the sustainable landscape discipline.

Why should I become a PCH-SLC?

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) identified sustainable landscaping practices to be the single largest opportunity for horticultural and landscaping professionals in the 21st century. Knowledge of the design, installation and maintenances of sustainable landscape systems is being driven by consumer demand and government regulations such as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permits, the Chesapeake Bay cleanup and PA Department of Environmental Protection storm water management best practices.

Who is eligible for testing?

Individuals eligible for testing must currently hold the PCH designation.

What do my registration fees cover?

The application fee covers the first exam, one retest, two full years on the mailing list, and recognition when certification is achieved.

PLNA Member (owner/employee of PLNA member firm)	\$ 50.00
Non-member	\$ 75.00

Additional retests within the two-year application period are subject to a retest fee.

PLNA Member (owner/employee of PLNA member firm)	\$ 25.00
Non-member	\$ 35.00

What is the test procedure?

The exam consists of 100 questions to be completed in one hour. The format of the exam consists of a combination of multiple choice, true or false, and matching questions. The sections consist of:

- Natural Cycles and the Human Impacts on the Environment
- Native Plants
- Key Benefits of Sustainable Landscapes
- Stormwater Best Management Practices for Sustainable Landscapes
- The Economics of Sustainable Landscapes
- Applicable Environmental Regulations
- Design Goals for Sustainable Landscapes including Understanding the Site, Design and Construction, Monitoring and Maintenance

How do I schedule an exam?

Exams will be scheduled as demand warrants. Call PLNA at (800) 898-3411 to schedule an exam date. Eventually, these exams will be incorporated in the main PCH Exam Schedules.

What does it take to pass the exam?

To pass the examination, candidates must attain a score of at least 80%. If a passing score is attained the candidate will be earn the designation of PCH – SLC (Sustainable Landscapes Certified). Scores will be mailed within four (4) weeks after taking the exam. Scores will NOT be given over the phone.

If the candidate does not attain the minimum passing score the candidate must retake the exam. The first time a candidate retests there is no charge. Beyond that a candidate may retake the exam for a charge of \$25 for PLNA members or \$35 for non-members within the remainder of their two-year application period.

What's the best way to prepare for the Sustainable Landscapes Module Exam?

The Sustainable Landscapes Study Manual, published by PLNA, is designed to serve as a comprehensive study guide for those preparing for the certification exam, as well as a reference source for the industry. Each area of the exam is covered by the guide with additional works referenced for voluntary review.

If I obtain the PCH-SLC designation how does this affect my recertification requirements?

Your PCH certification renewal period or number of CEUs required will not change. However, you will be required to earn at least 4 of the 24 CEUs in a new CEU Category – Sustainable Landscapes Education. This new category will focus solely on Sustainable Landscapes education opportunities. When possible, courses will be identified as eligible for the SLC designation required CEUs.

For more information:

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