



ABOUT USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a non-profit organization composed of leaders from across the building industry working to advance buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. USGBC's vision is that buildings and communities will regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life within a generation.

The Council is deeply rooted within six guiding principles that are incorporated into all aspects of the organization:

- Promote the Triple Bottom Line: USGBC will pursue robust triple bottom line solutions that clarify and strengthen a healthy and dynamic balance between environmental, social and economic prosperity.
- Establish Leadership: USGBC will take responsibility for both revolutionary and evolutionary leadership by championing societal models that achieve a more robust triple bottom line.
- Reconcile Humanity with Nature: USGBC will endeavor to create and restore harmony between human activities and natural systems.
- Maintain Integrity: USGBC will be guided by the precautionary principle in utilizing technical and scientific data to protect, preserve, and restore the health of the global environment, ecosystems and species.
- Insure Inclusiveness: USGBC will insure inclusive, interdisciplinary, democratic decision-making with the objective of building understanding and shared commitments toward a greater common good.
- Exhibit Transparency: USGBC shall strive for honesty, openness and transparency.

Driving its mission to transform the built environment is the Council's LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification system. LEED is a third party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED is accessible on-line and supported by a robust LEED Workshop program and the LEED Professional Accreditation program.

USGBC supports a rich education and research agenda, including Greenbuild - the largest international conference & expo focused on green building. The Council also supports an aggressive education and advocacy program delivered at the local level through 78 chapters and affiliates across the U.S.

Since its founding in 1993, USGBC has been focused on fulfilling the building and construction industry's vision for its own transformation to high-performance green building. Today, it includes more than 19,957 member companies and organizations. In testament to its leadership, in the past five years alone, USGBC's membership has quadrupled and over 5 billion square feet of building space are involved with the LEED program. The annual U.S. market in green building products and services was over \$7 billion in 2005 and is now between \$36-49 billion.

Industry-led and consensus-driven, the Council is as diverse as the marketplace it serves. Membership includes building owners and end-users, real estate developers, facility managers, architects, designers, engineers, general contractors, subcontractors, product and building system manufacturers, government agencies, and nonprofits. Leaders from within each of these sectors participate in the development of the LEED certification system and the direction of the Council through volunteer service on USGBC's open committees.