

*Via Ocean Hope  
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## Who We Are

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a community of more than 11,000 organizations from every sector of the building industry united by a common purpose: to transform the building marketplace to sustainability.

USGBC's 75 regional chapters serve as the front door of the Council, providing green building resources, education, and leadership opportunities in their communities.

USGBC's elected Board of Directors guides the Council's strategic direction and focus. The Council's programs and activities are implemented by an energetic, passionate staff of more than 90, headed by a professional management team.

## What We Do

### LEED® Green Building Rating System™

LEED®, the "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design" Green Building Rating System, is the nationally accepted standard for green buildings developed by the USGBC membership.

LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. USGBC's members, representing every sector of the building industry, developed and continue to refine LEED. LEED addresses all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell, operations & maintenance, homes, neighborhoods, and specific applications such as retail, multiple buildings/campuses, schools, healthcare, laboratories and lodging.

Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training and practical resources.

### Chapter Program

USGBC has a strong network of 75 regional chapters throughout the U.S. USGBC Chapters provide local green building resources, education and leadership opportunities. Local chapter members can connect with green building experts in their area, develop local green building strategies and tour green building projects.

### Education & Advocacy

USGBC provides top quality educational offerings on green design, construction, and operations for professionals from all sectors of the building industry. More than 50,000 designers, builders, suppliers and managers have attended USGBC educational programs to gain practical knowledge, explore new business opportunities, and learn how to create healthier, more productive, and more efficient places to live and work.

### LEED Professional Accreditation

A LEED Accredited Professional™ is an individual that has earned the distinction of demonstrating their ability to serve on a LEED project team and provide detailed knowledge of LEED project certification requirements and processes. A LEED AP also has a command of integrated design principles. LEED accreditation is awarded to building industry practitioners who successfully demonstrate these proficiencies on a comprehensive exam.

### LEED Workshops

More than a dozen workshops are conducted monthly by the top green building practitioners in the country. USGBC also offers LEED topic modules. These tailored, half-day sessions address the broad needs

of LEED users by exploring topics specific to individual building types or areas of professional practice as well as critical market issues such as the economics of LEED certified projects.

#### Online Courses

USGBC currently offers the “Essentials of LEED Professional Accreditation,” an interactive online course developed in partnership with Turner Construction Company. The course builds upon a basic knowledge of the LEED Rating System and covers the range of topics that building industry professionals should know to successfully manage the LEED project certification process.

#### Greenbuild

The USGBC’s Greenbuild International Conference & Expo is the world’s largest conference on high-performance building practices. Learn about new products, innovative projects, the latest building research and more. Join thousands of building industry professionals for over 100 educational sessions, 500 exhibitors, international master speakers, practical workshops and green building tours. Visit <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org>

#### Emerging Green Builders

The USGBC’s Emerging Green Builders program provides educational opportunities and resources to students and young professionals with the goal of integrating these future leaders into the green building movement.

#### Educational Partners & Affiliates

The USGBC’s Educational Partner program promotes top-quality training offerings serving the continuing education needs of the rapidly evolving green building industry. Partnering with qualified training providers gives the USGBC an even greater capacity to deliver the most current and accurate information on green building practices and benefits needed to effect market transformation.

## **Preamble**

Whereas USGBC is dedicated to improving conditions for humanity and nature, honoring and enhancing the prospects for both through the creation of a built environment that is mutually beneficial, we hereby acknowledge our allegiance to these essential values:

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Respect the limits of natural systems and non-renewable resources by seeking solutions that produce an abundance of natural and social capital.

### **EQUITY**

Respect all communities and cultures and aspire to an equal socio-economic opportunity for all.

### **INCLUSIVENESS**

Practice and promote openness, broad participation and full consideration of consequence in all aspects of decision-making processes.

### **PROGRESS**

Strive for immediate and measurable indicators of environmental, social and economic prosperity.

### **CONNECTEDNESS**

Recognize the critical linkage between humanity and nature as well as the importance of place-based decision-making to effective stewardship.

## **Guiding Principles**

### **What is leadership?**

At USGBC, our commitment to leadership is at the heart of what we do. In order to lead the transformation of the building industry, we know that how we make our decisions is as important as the decisions themselves.

### **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.

### **Ensure Inclusiveness**

USGBC will ensure 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.

