



PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Green Building Council Names Top 10 Green Building Policies in California *State and local policies recognized for shaping California communities, serving as national models*

Sacramento, Calif. – (April 25, 2012) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), in conjunction with USGBC California, an organization representing eight California USGBC chapters, today released its inaugural Top 10 list of State and Local Green Building Policies in California. These policies were recognized for the way each has advanced green building practices in the state.

“California’s remarkable history of leadership in public policy initiatives that protect the environment, promote energy independence, save money, and create healthier places to live, work, and learn has inspired countless initiatives in communities across the U.S.,” said Jason Hartke, Vice President, National Policy, USGBC. “We commend and celebrate California’s historic accomplishments and applaud its future policy goals.”

Policies were recognized in a variety of categories, including “Most Visionary,” “Most Market Transforming” and “Best Leadership by Example.”

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32, Pavley) was called out for setting the bar for policy efforts nationwide that curtail harmful greenhouse gas emissions and setting scoping plan targets for CO2 reduction levels. Sacramento’s Greenwise Regional Action Plan was honored as the “Most Engaging” local policy in California. Since Mayor Kevin Johnson announced the initiative in 2010, hundreds of volunteers have devoted thousands of hours to transforming the Sacramento area into the greenest region of the country and a hub for clean technology. These two policies are examples of the shape, scope, and variety of green buildings policies that have made California the national leader in building green.

The unveiling of the Top 10 list occurred in concert with USGBC California’s annual Advocacy Day, which brings volunteer advocates from across California to the state capital for a day of visits and briefings with legislators to talk about the benefits of green building. Legislators and recipients will be recognized at a reception in the LEED Platinum Cal/EPA Headquarters.

“USGBC is proud to recognize California’s outstanding sustainability policy leadership. These Top 10 policies exemplify California’s culture of invention, innovation, and early adoption that has so powerfully shaped our world,” said Dan Geiger, Executive Director of USGBC - Northern California Chapter. “USGBC was conceived in California, and we look forward to welcoming the global green building movement to its birthplace for Greenbuild 2012 this fall.”

USGBC’s [Greenbuild International Conference & Expo](#) is the world’s largest conference and expo dedicated to green building. Thousands of building professionals from all over the world come together at Greenbuild for three days of outstanding educational sessions, renowned speakers, green building tours, special seminars, and networking events. Greenbuild will take place Nov. 14 – 16 in San Francisco.

The Top 10 list includes:

STATE

- *Most Visionary:* California Energy Commission’s *Title 24 (Part 6)*, “The Energy Code,” of 1978
- *Most Comprehensive:* Assembly Bill 758 (Skinner), Existing Building Energy Efficiency, of 2009

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- *Most Impactful:* Assembly Bill 32 (Pavley), *The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006*
- *Most Educational:* Senate Bill 128 (Lowenthal), High-Performance Schools Facilities Funding
- *Most Foundational:* *California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen)*
- *Most Historic:* Assembly Bill 4420 (Sher), GHG Inventory, Climate Change Planning of 1988
- *Most Brilliant:* Senate Bill 1, *The California Solar Initiative of 2006*
- *Most Energizing:* Senate Bill X1 2 (Simitian), 33% RPS by 2020, of 2011
- *Most Sweeping:* Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) Sustainable Communities of 2008
- *Most Creative:* Assembly Bill 811 (Levine), Assessment-based Financing of 2008

LOCAL

- *Most Inspiring:* The Sacramento Region for the Greenwise Action Plan of 2010
- *Most Market Transforming:* Alameda County's StopWaste.org for green building grants and technical assistance since 2001
- *Most Visionary:* Los Angeles for adopting one of the first green building ordinances that helped start a city-wide green building movement in 2002
- *Best Role Model:* The City of San Francisco for advancing a comprehensive package of green building policies and incentives since 2004
- *Best Residential Partnership:* Western Riverside County Council of Governments (WRCOG) for financing residential and commercial energy retrofits in 2011
- *Best Leadership by Example:* Oakland for its inclusive approach to building green by working with local green building organizations to grow the area's green building practice since 2005
- *Most Collaborative:* Palm Desert for implementing a plan to increase energy independence and reduce energy usage by 30 percent in 2008
- *Best in School:* Napa Valley Unified's American Canyon High School Campus for sustainable planning that anchored a community in 2008
- *Most Versatile:* The City of Chula Vista for incorporating a suite of climate protection policies centered on a commitment to building green in 2008
- *Most Team Spirit:* The County of Santa Barbara's Innovative Building Review Program (IBRP) advises developers how to make their projects more energy efficient at no cost, since 2009

To learn more about the policies, visit www.usgbc.org/california10.

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building certification program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

USGBC California

USGBC California is a member-driven policy organization representing eight California USGBC chapters. Our thousands of members are the vanguard of forward-thinking business, technology and community leaders interested in building and retrofitting a healthy environment now and for generations to come. Find out more at usgbc-california.org

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