



Research Advisory Committee Purpose Statement

Approved November 18, 2009

Statement of Purpose

The USGBC Research Program acts to advance the understanding and practice of green building through applied research and innovation. The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) reports to the Education Steering Committee and supports the Research Program by providing high-level strategic counsel and technical guidance. The RAC is supported by technical working groups that investigate specific issues in greater technical depth based on narrowly-defined statements of purpose.

Research Advisory Committee Responsibilities:

1. Provide *strategic guidance* on the direction of the Research Program, including perspectives on opportunities to:
 - Increase the impact and effectiveness of the Research Program;
 - Enhance and expand research collaborations; and
 - Strengthen the connection between the Research Program and the success of USGBC and its members.
2. Provide *high-level technical guidance* on specific research areas, including:
 - Green building rating systems;
 - Innovative educational approaches and programs;
 - Performance assessment methods and technology;
 - Green building-related public policy; and
 - Business strategies and market dynamics.
3. Assist in identifying subjects for action by technical working groups, defining statements of purpose for individual technical working groups, and reviewing the qualifications of potential working group members.
4. Work with Research Program staff to help build durable and productive connections and collaborations with the research community.

Membership

The RAC will be comprised of no less than 7 and no more than 15 members, appointed by the Executive Committee for a two-year term and may serve up to 2 consecutive terms. Some initial terms may be one-year terms in order to ensure member terms are staggered. Members will be drawn from a combination of individuals identified through a USGBC membership solicitation of interest and through RAC committee designated working group representatives. The committee will be co-chaired by a non-voting USGBC staff member (director level or above) and a volunteer. The committee may include up to 2 additional USGBC staff members (manager level or above) as non-voting members, subject to nomination by the President/CEO or his designee and approval by the Executive Committee. The committee is headed by a volunteer Co-chair recommended by the ESC (or senior staff in lieu of the initial existence of a

committee) and approved by the Executive Committee and a Co-chair staff member at a director level or above recommended by the USGBC President/CEO, or his designee and approved by the Executive Committee. The volunteer Co-chair will be a non-voting member of the committee, as per USGBC committee policies, serve a one-year term with a maximum of two-terms.

Committee Balance

The RAC strives to include members with geographical, demographic, member category and professional diversity. The selection of Research Advisory Committee members will seek to balance:

- **Organizational perspectives**, including representation from multiple USGBC member categories.
- **Life cycle perspectives**, including a diversity of experience across the life cycle of built environments, extending through policy, planning, design, construction, operations, retrofit and end-of-life.
- **Market segment perspectives**, including experience with sustainable communities and diverse building and project types across rating systems, products, along with bioregional and multi-cultural relevance.
- **Research perspectives**, diverse experience in policy, planning, design, construction, operations, and performance assessment and a balance of theory, applied research, and professional practice.
- **Programmatic perspectives**, diverse experience in the effective management and growth of not-for-profit-based research programs.
- **Professional perspectives**, diverse experience in building-related areas of expertise, including planning, architecture, engineering, technology, finance, and operations.

Given the relatively large number of dimensions, prospective RAC members capable of effectively representing multiple perspectives are particularly valuable.

Meetings

The RAC will convene periodically by teleconference or face-to-face meetings. The RAC may have one face-to-face meeting each year.

The RAC and staff will follow *USGBC's Policies and Procedures for Committees'* guidelines on meeting minutes, attendance, and all aspects of committee operation, as appropriate.