



Letter from
SCOT HORST



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am writing you in mid-April from a hotel in Budapest, stranded here because of a cloud of volcanic ash. I came here to speak at a conference and was reminded that nature is so much greater than human endeavor. To be caught in the largest interruption in air traffic history is to understand how small our human systems are compared to the earth itself. It is a good reminder that we are nature. It is not separate from the rest of our lives.

LEED is a system that helps integrate natural and human systems through the way we design, build, manage and occupy buildings. In its 10 years, LEED has begun to transform our built environment. But what has impressed me most is how much people are willing to give of their time and intellect in order to constantly improve this tool we all share. This is because the real transformation occurs in people and it is those people that transform buildings.

It is a great honor to work with so many of you that are using LEED. You are transforming the built environment through thousands of specific actions in your daily work. These actions change the world by altering the way we design, build, manage and occupy buildings. What I see over and over is that the doing is what becomes transformative. It is the action that makes a difference to all of us, to nature and to you.

We are fortunate to be living in a unique time in history and to have a tool that helps us stay focused on our mission. It is my sincere hope that in another 10 years we will have been so successful that we will not need LEED at all. In the meantime, I wish you the best in all that you are doing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scot Horst".

Scot Horst
Senior Vice President, LEED
U.S. Green Building Council



LEED AT 10— AND INTO THE FUTURE

In March 2000, the U.S. Green Building Council launched the LEED green building rating system, the first holistic national program in the United States for certifying the sustainability of a building's design and construction. Since then, through the active involvement of the USGBC member community and the innovation of LEED project teams, this groundbreaking system has become a global benchmark for what it means to design, build, operate and maintain a green building.

This spring, thanks to you, LEED celebrated several substantial milestones, including:

- 10 years in the marketplace
- 5,000 LEED-certified commercial and institutional projects
- 5,000 LEED-certified homes
- 150,000 LEED Professional Credential holders
- 10 billion square feet of registered or certified commercial, institutional and neighborhood LEED project space
- The launch of LEED for Neighborhood Development
- The passage of the LEED for Retail rating systems in member balloting

The built-in flexibility of LEED's member-driven ongoing development cycle has been essential to the market-transforming power of LEED projects. Building science, best practices, technologies and environmental priorities never stop evolving, and at 10 years old, LEED continues to evolve right alongside them. Here is a peek into the future of LEED.



For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/LEED

COMMUNITIES

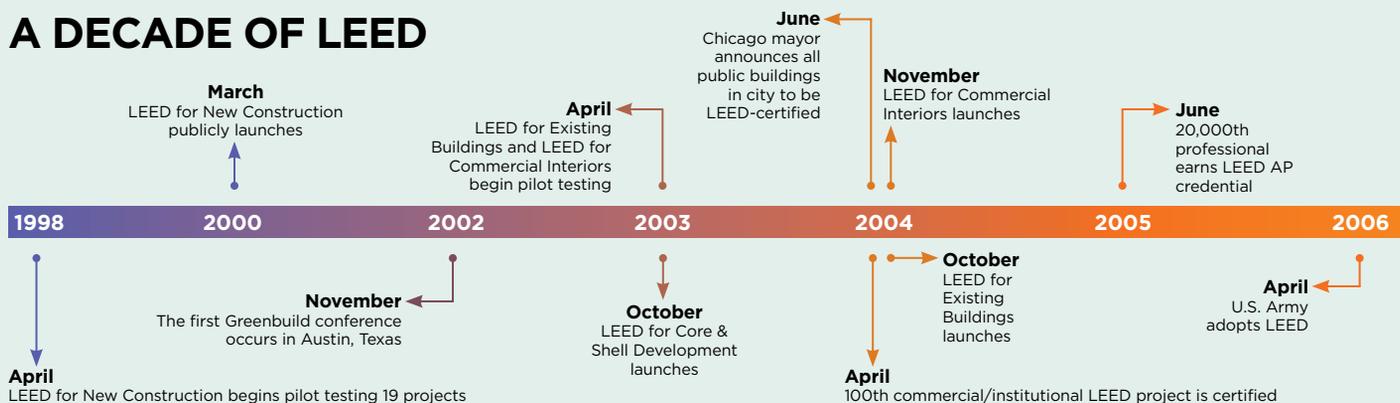
A central tenet of green building is that our economic, environmental and personal health is dramatically impacted by the places where we live, work, learn, shop, eat and play. But those buildings don't exist in a bubble, and green building shouldn't either.

Market transformation will depend on our ability to create sustainable communities, and the launch this spring of the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system marked a significant leap forward for LEED. LEED for Neighborhood Development integrates the principles of smart growth, New Urbanism and green building into the first national rating system for neighborhood design and was developed by the USGBC in partnership with the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). LEED for Neighborhood Development enables us to bring the integrated, holistic approach that defines LEED from the building level to the whole-development level.

How you can get involved:

- Advocate for LEED for Neighborhood Development projects in your community, or register your development project with LEED for Neighborhood Development. Learn more at www.usgbc.org/LEED/ND.
- Build your knowledge and expertise with USGBC's essential LEED curriculum—whether you're a LEED newcomer or a long-time LEED expert looking to learn more about LEED for Neighborhood Development. Visit www.usgbc.org/LEEDcurriculum.

A DECADE OF LEED



- Demonstrate your LEED for Neighborhood Development expertise by earning the new LEED AP ND professional credential. Visit www.gbci.org.

PERFORMANCE

LEED buildings are designed and constructed for optimal performance. Health, climate, water, resource and other outcomes depend on a building's ongoing high performance, and the third-party verification of the LEED certification process attests to the ways a certified building's design and construction enable that level of performance.

But then you add the human element—occupant behavior, facility manager awareness, purchasing practices and other variables—and a gap can develop between potential and actual performance. Through USGBC's Building Performance Initiative, the ongoing development of LEED will be able to take the focus on operational performance to the next level.

The Building Performance Initiative (BPI) formally launched at the Greenbuild International Conference & Expo in last November, and since then USGBC has engaged major stakeholders to develop this critical new initiative. BPI will establish a comprehensive energy and water data-collection and analysis infrastructure that is capable of capturing feedback from all LEED-certified and registered buildings. The outcome will be twofold: BPI will offer project-specific benchmarks and performance reports to help project owners fill their own performance gaps, and the performance feedback we receive will drive the ongoing improvement of LEED and help us assess the rating systems' ability to encourage performance-oriented decision-making.

How you can get involved:

- In April, Data Collection Phase 1 of BPI began, which enables all LEED-certified project owners—regardless of what version of LEED they

used—to participate. Submit your LEED project's data, receive information on how your building is performing and opportunities for improvement, and drive LEED into a new decade of market-transforming performance. Visit www.usgbc.org/bpi to learn more.

THE NEXT VERSION OF LEED

The USGBC member-based LEED Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) are currently working on improvements to the LEED rating systems as part of the next version of LEED. These changes include revisions to existing requirements as well as the introduction of new ideas. You will soon have an opportunity to see these ideas, comment on them and even test them on your projects.

How you can get involved:

- Employees of USGBC member organizations are at the heart of all updates, revisions and new versions of the LEED rating systems through LEED committees. You can view any committee openings, as well as add your name to our database of Subject Matter Experts, at www.usgbc.org/committees.
- Consider testing a pilot LEED credit on your next LEED project. The LEED Pilot Credit Library is intended to facilitate the introduction of new prerequisites and credits to LEED. This process will allow USGBC to test and refine credits through LEED 2009 project evaluations before they are sent through the balloting process for introduction into future versions of LEED. Visit www.usgbc.org/PilotCreditLibrary to learn more.
- Review the first draft of the next version of LEED and submit your comments during the upcoming public comment period. Subscribe to the USGBC Update e-newsletter at www.usgbc.org/subscriptions and look for more news to come.

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

USGBC's member organizations and their employees drive the development of LEED and are to thank for its success. Learn how you can participate in committees, vote in LEED ballots and find other ways to get involved at www.usgbc.org/membersonly.

Not yet a member? Add your organization's voice to the USGBC community at www.usgbc.org/membership.

