



NEWS RELEASE

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USGBC Honors Eight Local Chapters with Annual Awards of Excellence

Washington, DC (December 18, 2007) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has recognized eight of its more than 70 local chapters with its Annual Chapter Awards of Excellence. The awards, given at the USGBC's Annual Greenbuild Conference & Expo, held last month in Chicago, are given to chapters that excel in providing local green building outreach and education and in fostering best practices among the green building community. The five award categories include: Community, LEED®, Education, Advocacy & Influence and Organizational Excellence.

"It is through our chapters that we are able to educate the public as well as business and community leaders about green building and LEED," said Heather Tomlinson, Vice President of Community. "USGBC chapters are the front door of the Council, and these awards recognize those chapters that are truly going above and beyond. Their practices are exemplary and demonstrate outstanding leadership."

This year, the Community award recognized both a large chapter and a small chapter for their efforts in building and developing the green building community through membership recruitment and retention and volunteer development.

The winner of the Award of Excellence in the Community Large Chapter category was the St. Louis Region Chapter. The chapter was recognized for initiatives and programs that demonstrated a high level of innovation and creativity including a partnership with their local electric utility to offer a LEED incentive grant; a green building summit with a local Congressman for community decision makers; LEED workshop scholarships for members of the community; and a green house tour at the St. Louis Botanical Garden. The winner of the Award of Excellence in the Community Small Chapter category was the South Carolina Chapter for their creation of a broad range of community programs and initiatives that included a toolkit and guidelines for chapter branches.

The LEED award also recognized a small and a large chapter for their contributions to the uptake of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ within their communities.

The winner of the Award of Excellence in the LEED Small Chapter category was the Charlotte Region Chapter, North Carolina. This small chapter held a significant amount of workshops and implemented a communications and outreach strategy. In the LEED Large Chapter category, the Los Angeles Chapter received an Honorable Mention for committing to select meeting venues in sustainable locations and achieving a 300% increase in event attendance.

The Education category was the largest of the five, creating strong competition in both the large and small chapter categories. There was a tie in the Education Large Chapter with the

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Cascadia Region Green Building Council, Portland, OR, and the Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC). Its Green Advantage commercial contractor training program is a “great addition to the Green education family,” the panel commented. The Cascadia Region Green Building Council demonstrated international leadership with the Living Building Challenge.

The winner of the Award of Excellence in the Education Small Chapter category was the Charlotte, NC Region Chapter. The chapter was recognized for its creative programming, which provided opportunities for diverse members of the community to get engaged with green building. The New Jersey Chapter received Special Recognition from the jury in the Education Large Chapter category.

The Advocacy & Influence award recognized chapters that developed and implemented a successful green building advocacy campaign. The winner of the Advocacy and Influence for a Small Chapter was the Middle Tennessee chapter in Nashville, TN. The chapter worked to help the city of Nashville pass legislation requiring a LEED silver rating for all public buildings. The large chapter winner was the Los Angeles Chapter, cited for the level of activity and influence it has established in its communities.

The Organizational Excellence award recognized a small and a large chapter for excellence in organizational practices consistent with USGBC’s strategic plan, including board leadership, communications and planning. The winner of the Award of Organizational excellence in the small chapter category was the James River Green Building Council (JRGBC), based in Richmond, VA. JRGBC demonstrated how careful planning with specific, measurable goals helps to focus efforts of a growing chapter with limited resources. The winner of the Award of Organizational Excellence in the large chapter category was the Delaware Valley Green Building Council. DVGBC’s submission demonstrated how a large chapter can eschew the status quo and challenge itself to continuously improve and institute new programs to succeed and grow.

The awards are sponsored each year by USGBC member Milliken & Company. Winning chapters received recognition on Member Day at Greenbuild and on the USGBC Web site, as well as a financial award. Winning submissions are also posted to USGBC’s Chapter Resource Center at www.USGBC.org. The awards review panels for each category were comprised of a cross section of USGBC leadership including chapter leaders, national staff, Chapter Steering Committee members, and volunteer leaders.

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About USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council is the nation’s leading nonprofit organization composed of corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations working together to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. Since its founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 13,000 member companies and organizations, a broad portfolio of LEED® programs and services, the industry’s popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 72 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. The Council’s vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.