



NEWS RELEASE

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USGBC Honors Green Building Leaders Leadership Awards acknowledge the best in the industry

BOSTON (Nov. 20, 2008) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has named the recipients of its 2008 Leadership Awards. The awards recognize companies and individuals who signify vision, leadership and commitment to the evolution of green building design and construction. The awards were presented during the Leadership Awards luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 20, during the 2008 Greenbuild International Conference and Expo being held in Boston.

“The organizations and individuals receiving this year's awards are among the most influential green building leaders in the country,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, USGBC. “It is because of their passion and expertise and their tremendous contributions that we’ve been able to move closer toward our mission of transforming the built environment.”

The 2008 Leadership Awards recognize achievements in six categories including Community, Education, LEED, Organizational Excellence, Research and Advocacy. This year USGBC also bestowed a special President’s award, given in acknowledgement of a distinguished career and exceptional contributions to the green building movement.

This year’s President’s award went to Alexander “Andy” Karsner, Assistant Secretary to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) at the U.S. Department of Energy for his efforts to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy information and applications to a broad and diverse audience throughout the U.S. and abroad. Throughout his tenure at DOE, Karsner pushed to ensure that building efficiency best practices were clearly documented, easily accessible to the general public and applied to federal buildings, laboratories, military bases and beyond, while rallying to ensure that all new building construction and renovations designed in 2009 would meet the LEED Gold level of certification.

In the Community category the San Diego Gas & Electric’s Sustainable Communities Program received the award for its progressive approach to the utility model to encourage sustainable development in the San Diego region. The program, launched in 2004, works with developers, designers, municipalities and school districts to encourage green building practices and to incorporate clean on-site energy generation. The program has become a model for utility sustainable community programs in California.

Executive Editor of *Environmental Building News*, Alex Wilson, received the award in the Education category. For more than 25 years, Wilson has been bringing unbiased, reliable information, tools and resources to the building industry. He is the author of numerous books and textbooks on sustainable building, and has written hundreds of articles for publications outside of *EBN*, including *Popular Science* and *Architectural Record*. He served as the executive director of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association and on the board of directors for the USGBC, and is currently a trustee of The Nature Conservancy – Vermont Chapter.

The cost consulting firm Davis Langdon was honored in the Research category for its ongoing contributions to the market's understanding of the cost implications of LEED. With Director Peter Morris in charge of research and Lisa Matthiessen in charge of sustainability services, the pair teamed up to develop "Understanding the Cost of Green," a report widely regarded as changing the conversation on green costs.

In the LEED category, Scot Horst received the award for his leadership as the current chairman of the LEED Steering Committee. During Scot's chairmanship, LEED has taken several bold steps forward, including the introduction of LEED for Core & Shell; revisions to LEED for Existing Buildings; the launch of LEED for Schools and LEED for Homes; and the evolution of the LEED rating system envisioned by LEED v3. Outside of his leadership within USGBC, Scot is dedicated to his work in the industry as a materials consultant, and his extensive work in the cement industry and with the Climate Trust in Oregon, as well as his role as Vice President of the Athena Institute, all of which are contributing new understanding to life cycle assessment, His work informs the forward development of LEED in countless ways.

Two awards were given in the Organizational Excellence category –one to the founding members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Committee on the Environment (AIA COTE) and another to CB Richard Ellis. The early members of the AIA COTE planted the seeds for the founding of the USGBC, and many went on to play significant roles in the leadership of the USGBC and the creation of LEED. The COTE put together the Environmental Resources Guide, the first comprehensive look at green design and lifecycle assessment of building materials, and developed the first national design award for green building – the AIA Top Ten. The award continues to be a benchmark in sustainable design for innovative architects.

CB Richard Ellis received the award for its leadership in corporate responsibility as the first major real estate services firm to announce its pledge to become carbon neutral by 2010. As the world's largest commercial real estate services firm, CBRE directly manages and advises more than 1.9 billion square feet of property and corporate facilities globally, which presents a unique ability to impact the way the built environment is constructed and operated. Its commitment to reducing the impact of the built environment is evidenced by the many programs and achievements in sustainability the firm has initiated in the past year and a half, and will continue to develop in the future.

In the Advocacy category, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland received the award in recognition of the strong example of sustainability he has set forth for schools across the nation. Under his leadership, the state of Ohio passed legislation in 2007 requiring that all new public schools achieve LEED Silver certification, with registration and certification fees, as well as any incremental costs paid for entirely by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission. Over the next 40 years, these green school projects will save Ohio taxpayers \$1.4 billion in energy savings alone. Governor Strickland's commitment to green schools demonstrates his dedication to education and the vision of bringing green schools to every child within a generation.

Founding Members of AIA COTE 1990-1991

Robert J. Berkebile, AIA, Chair, 1990 - 1992

Paul Bierman-Lytle, AIA

Gregory Franta, FAIA, Chair, 1994

Kirk Gastinger, FAIA Chair, 1993

Harry T. Gordon, FAIA, Chair 1995

Hal Levin
Frederick P. Lyman, III, FAIA
William A. McDonough, FAIA
Christopher B. Stafford, AIA
Kelly French Vresilovic, AIA

AIA COTE KEY CONTRIBUTORS 1990 - 1994

Gregg D. Ander, FAIA
Lesley Brown, AIA
Randall R. Croxton, FAIA
Pliny Fisk, III
David Hirzel, Sasaki Associates
Patrick J. Lally, 1993 Director
Gail Ann Lindsey, FAIA
Donald R. Watson, FAIA
William M. Brown, AIA, LEED AP, AIA representative, 1993 – 1994
Doug Greenwood, AIA staff during founding years
Carl Costello, AIA staff during founding years

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About USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since USGBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 17,500 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building certification systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 79 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

About Greenbuild

The U.S. Green Building Council's Greenbuild International Conference & Expo convenes the industry's largest gathering of representatives from all sectors of the green building movement. Three days of extensive educational programming, workshops, a vast exhibition floor and ample networking events provide unrivaled opportunities to learn about the latest technological innovations, explore new products, and exchange ideas with other professionals. Greenbuild 2008 will be held on Nov. 19-21, 2008, in Boston, Mass. Last year's conference drew over 23,000 attendees and featured more than 850 exhibit booths. Visit www.greenbuildexpo.org for more information. To view last year's Greenbuild show, go to www.greenbuild365.org.