



NEWS RELEASE

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Olympic Village in Beijing Earns LEED Gold Certification ***Engaging the people of China in USGBC's vision of healthy buildings and communities***

Washington, DC (August 18, 2008) - Athletes in Beijing for the 2008 Olympic Games are staying at a first-of-its-kind, environmentally friendly Olympic Village. The plan for the village, the temporary home to 17,000 athletes from around the world, has been awarded LEED®-Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) under its pilot LEED for Neighborhood Development certification program.

The Beijing Olympic Village is the first Olympic Village to receive LEED certification, and as part of the pilot program, it is one of only eight developments – and the first international project – to thus far achieve certification under LEED for Neighborhood Development. The pilot program began with a call for pilot projects in early 2007. Nearly 240 projects from 39 states and six countries are now registered to participate in the pilot program. The information learned during the pilot program will be used to make further revisions to the rating system and certification process, and the resulting draft rating system will be posted for public comment before it is submitted for final approvals and balloting. For more information on LEED for Neighborhood Development, visit www.usgbc.org/leed/nd.

“The world’s most pressing issues – including climate change, habitat destruction, water and energy shortages, human health, and social inequities – require global cooperation to solve,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO, and Founding Chair of USGBC. “The Olympic Games represent the exciting possibilities that emerge when the world comes together. The commitment of the Olympic Village, demonstrated through its success in the LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot program, is an important part of that effort. It sets an inspiring example while the world is watching, and the real, measurable environmental and health effects will be a real benefit to the people of Beijing for years to come.”

LEED for Neighborhood Development integrates the principles of smart growth, New Urbanism and green building into a comprehensive system for neighborhood design. The result of a collaboration among USGBC, the Congress for the New Urbanism and the Natural Resources Defense Council, LEED for Neighborhood Development certifies neighborhoods for their design and performance in four categories: Smart Location & Linkage, Neighborhood Pattern & Design, Green Construction & Technology, and Innovation & Design Process. The Green Construction & Technology category awards developments for their integration of green infrastructure elements and the green building principles promoted by the other LEED certification programs. Depending on the number of points a development receives in each category, LEED for Neighborhood Development certification is awarded at four levels: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

In 2004, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and China’s Ministry of Science and Technology developed a “Protocol for Cooperation in Clean Energy Technologies for the 2008

Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.” The Protocol resulted in plans to seek LEED certification for the Olympic Village.

The LEED-Gold certification of the Olympic Village is the latest example of USGBC’s commitment to engaging the people of China in USGBC’s vision of buildings and communities that regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life within a generation. Most recently, USGBC has supported the formation of the new China Green Building Council and anticipates working with the China GBC as it grows and continues to promote sustainable, healthy building practices in a country that builds nearly half the world’s new buildings every year.

“China’s growing population, its emerging economy and the opportunities and challenges it represents ensure that China will play a key role in the future of our planet,” Fedrizzi said. “The fact that one of the world’s first LEED for Neighborhood Development-certified plans is a cause for great optimism that China’s growth in the coming years can be a model of sustainable development.”

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 16,700 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry’s popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 78 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

About LEED®

The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a feature-oriented rating system that awards buildings points for satisfying specified green building criteria. The six major environmental categories of review include: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design. Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of LEED green building certification are awarded based on the total number of points earned within each LEED category. LEED can be applied to all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell developments, existing buildings, homes, neighborhood developments, schools and retail facilities. LEED for Healthcare is currently under development and is expected to be released in early 2008.

Incentives for LEED are available at the state and local level and LEED has also been adopted nationwide by federal agencies, state and local governments, and interested private companies. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/LEED.