



PRESS RELEASE

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USGBC's Greenbuild Conference Opens with Plenary Celebration at Chase Field in Phoenix

USGBC President & CEO Rick Fedrizzi, Vice President Al Gore and Singer Sheryl Crow Open to a Packed Field

Phoenix, Ariz. (November 13, 2009) – Wednesday night at Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks, the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Greenbuild International Conference & Expo kicked off with a bang. USGBC President, CEO and Founding Chair Rick Fedrizzi took to the podium, speaking to an audience of more than 28,000 stressing the importance of green building and human health.

"Our work should not be defined solely by the number of LEED certified homes, offices, schools and neighborhoods," Fedrizzi said in his opening remarks. "It is about the people inside of them. Green building is about the families who must weigh their power bill against their grocery bill; it's about workers who labor in buildings that take a toll on their bodies and spirits; and it's about kids who spend their entire childhoods in toxic classrooms."

Continued Fedrizzi, "We have the power to make choices that will fundamentally change the environment, and people's lives, for the better. And no one has more power to drive that change than those of us here tonight in Diamondback Stadium."

The Honorable Al Gore was the evening's keynote speaker. Vice President Gore called on the audience to make the choices required to ensure we leave a better earth for our children.

Al Gore has championed awareness and action to confront global climate change since his earliest days in the U.S. Congress 30 years ago, and is regarded for his pioneering role in helping put one of the most important challenges of our time on the map, with his best-selling book and Academy Award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. In 2007, Gore was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for his environmental activism. In 1992, Gore published "Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit" and instituted environmental policy and initiatives in the Clinton-Gore Administration to help safeguard the environment.

The show closed with a performance from the talented singer/songwriter Sheryl Crow.

"Performing at Greenbuild is like being on the international stage of the green movement, celebrating with you the progress we're making on this important issue," Crow said.

Archived video footage from the Greenbuild Opening Keynote & Celebration can be viewed at GreenbuildExpo.org. Greenbuild will run through Friday, Nov. 13, and will include presentations by seven master speakers, more than 150 educational sessions, and a closing plenary featuring a keynote address by Carol Browner, Assistant to President Obama for Energy and Climate Change. The closing plenary, all master speakers and several other sessions will be viewable via live streaming video at GreenbuildExpo.org. View the complete schedule at <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org/speakers/live-video-streams.aspx>.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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USGBC's annual Greenbuild conference, in its eighth year, is the world's largest green building conference and expo, and is connecting the green building community to education, innovative ideas, resources and opportunities. More than 20,000 Greenbuild attendees are in Phoenix, representing all sectors of the green building movement. Greenbuild features three days of extensive educational programming, workshops, an exhibition floor with over 1,800 booths, a green jobs fair, ample networking events and opportunities to learn about the latest technological innovations, opportunities to explore new products and exchange ideas with other professionals.