



PRESS RELEASE

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USGBC Joins Green Building Councils from Around the World to Call Attention to the Important Role Sustainable Buildings Have in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

WASHINGTON, DC (September 22, 2009) –In coordination with Green Building Councils all over the world, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is helping kick off the inaugural World Green Building Day on September 23 by leading a group of green building practitioners – including architects, engineers, builders, planners, contractors and building owners – to advocate for climate change legislation on Capitol Hill.

With U.S. lawmakers considering action this fall on historic energy and climate legislation, including several ground-breaking green building provisions, USGBC has organized a “Congressional Advocacy Day” for nearly 80 advocates from all corners of the United States to visit and meet with more than 130 Members of Congress and their staff.

USGBC advocates will call on Congress to take action on climate legislation before December when representatives from over 150 countries will assemble in Copenhagen for vital international negotiations to create a new global climate agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“As the built environment accounts for 40 percent of global carbon emissions, the green building movement has an unprecedented opportunity to make a major contribution to both national and international carbon reduction targets,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chairman of the U.S. Green Building Council.

As part of its Road to Copenhagen and participation in the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in December, USGBC is actively involved with government delegations and non-government organizations to better understand how we can work together to show that green building represents one of the most direct, immediate and cost-effective opportunities to help tackle climate change.

World Green Building Day, an initiative of the World Green Building Council, is intended to draw global attention to the urgent need to develop policies and strategies to help deliver the environmental, economic and health benefits of green building. In addition to Congressional Advocacy Day, USGBC will also be joining other GBCs in signing two important documents: the Buildings and Climate Change Industry Call to Action and the Framework for a Common Carbon Metric.

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U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 131,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and

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environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.