



FAQ

USGBC Chapters

You have questions. We have answers. Whether you are interested in joining a chapter, learning more about chapters, branches and affiliates, or understanding how you can get involved in USGBC's mission, we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions to provide you with the information you need to either get started on or to keep moving forward in your endeavors.

What are the benefits of joining a USGBC chapter?

When you join a chapter, you have the opportunity to support the USGBC mission of market transformation at the local level through education, advocacy and outreach. In addition, you can meet other like-minded people involved in green building, share your expertise to help raise awareness or hone your skills in an area in which you're interested, from public-policy advocacy to communications to event planning. As a chapter member, you also have the opportunity to become a USGBC Education Reviewer and earn continuing education hours (CEs) toward your LEED professional credential (click [here](#) to learn more).

Finally, each chapter offers unique benefits to its members, including but not limited to discounted rates for chapter programs and continuing education opportunities hosted by the chapter in your community. Learn more about these unique benefits by visiting your [local chapter's Web site](#).

How do I find my local chapter?

Visit the [Chapters page](#) that pinpoints chapter and affiliate locations across the U.S. By clicking on the flags, you can view contact information and the chapter's Web site (when available).

What is the difference between a chapter and an affiliate?

Affiliates are green building groups that existed before the creation of the USGBC chapter network. Because these groups shared a similar mission with that of USGBC, we made them affiliates rather than start new chapters to serve the same area. There are five in the U.S. As part of their affiliation agreement with USGBC, they agree to promote USGBC programs and perform many of the same functions as a chapter. By their very definition (as predating the USGBC chapter network) there can be no more affiliates.

What are branches?

Branches are sub-entities of chapters in the same way that counties are sub-entities of states. Many USGBC chapters have formed "branches" that cover specific areas within their territory to better serve local communities. Individuals still join the chapter, but they may be active with the branch that serves their locality.

How do I start my own chapter?

USGBC policy prohibits the establishment of chapters in states already served by existing groups because we aim to bolster consistency and combine resources. If you are interested in forming a chapter within one of the few states that is not already served by one, e-mail chapters@usgbc.org for additional information.

Can I start a chapter outside of the United States?

USGBC chapters can only be formed within the United States. To explore international green building councils and to verify whether the opportunity exists to form a green building entity in your country, please contact leedinfo@usgbc.org. This program is separate from USGBC's chapter program.

I joined the wrong chapter. What do I do?

Please e-mail our membership customer service department at membership@usgbc.org. They handle mistakes made during the registration process.

I've recently moved. Can I transfer my chapter membership?

No, chapter memberships are not transferable. This is because each of our chapters constitutes its own 501(c)(3) organization. Fortunately, you are free to join as many chapters as you'd like – simply allow your old membership to expire and join the new chapter in the meantime.

Why doesn't my chapter affiliation appear in my profile on the national site?

If your chapter or affiliate manages its own membership, your membership will not appear on the USGBC national site. Northern California, Orange County, Delaware Valley GBC, The Green Roundtable and New York are just a few of the USGBC groups that are independent in this capacity. If you have any lingering concerns, please contact your local membership committee chair for more information.

Who can receive discounts on materials, workshops and exams?

Only full-time employees of USGBC national member organizations are entitled to USGBC discounts on LEED reference guides, USGBC educational programs and accreditation exams, as well as opportunities to maintain their LEED professional credentials under GBCI's LEED [Credentialing Maintenance Program](#) (CMP). Individuals who are chapter members are entitled to benefits and discounts offered by that chapter only. If you are a full-time employee of an organization that has a national membership, you can obtain the national benefits. Learn more about USGBC member benefits [here](#).

How do I subscribe or unsubscribe from a USGBC mailing?

Log in to the USGBC national site. Under “Your Account,” click on “subscriptions.” In the right-hand menu, you should be able to click on “privacy policy.” That is where you can opt out of chapter e-mails and/or other e-mails from USGBC partners.

What is the Chapter Leader Extranet and who can access it?

The Extranet is a limited-access collaboration site for USGBC chapter leaders. The Extranet is intended to be a one-stop shop where these individuals can find a range of resources and tools to help them in their leadership roles within USGBC's chapter network. Those in chapter leadership positions (such as board members, staff, committee chairs and members, regional council representatives, etc.) are given access to the Extranet. You can submit your request for an Extranet account [here](#).

How do I obtain a logo?

The USGBC chapter logo can only be used by the chapter as part of official business (e.g. on chapter materials and publications, their Web site, etc.). It is not permitted to be leveraged by chapter members for personal use. Similarly, the USGBC Member logo may only be used by USGBC national member companies. Use of the USGBC logo and the LEED logo is authorized by the USGBC Marketing Department (contact marketing@usgbc.org) on a case-by-case basis through written request and thorough review of intent for usage. [Logo guidelines](#) are available online and chapter logos can be sourced through the Extranet.

What happened to Emerging Green Builders?

Emerging Green Builders is still a vibrant, chapter-based program that focuses on young and new professionals to the green building industry. What has changed is the USGBC chapter membership policy, which has done away with membership categories such as “Full,” “Associate,” and “EGB.” Instead, chapters now offer a single membership with discounts for full-time students and for full-time employees of USGBC national member companies. With this change, all chapter members are allowed to vote, sit on the board and hold chapter leadership positions.

How do I start up an EGB group?

Individual chapters organize their own EGB initiatives. Please contact your local chapter about how to get involved with its existing EGB committee.

What is the difference between USGBC Students and Emerging Green Builders?

USGBC Students is an initiative geared toward making American college campuses more sustainable. Whereas EGB is primarily targeted at young professionals who wish to network in the green building sector, USGBC Students gives college students a chance to engage in the USGBC mission while completing their studies. USGBC Students is managed by headquarters, whereas individual chapters design their own EGB initiative with the guidance and support of USGBC.

How do I start a USGBC Students group?

If you are interested in setting up your own USGBC Students group, e-mail us at studentgroups@usgbc.org. Include your name, school and the reason you are interested in starting a group on your campus. We will contact you with information on the next steps.