

Statement by USGBC President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi on the announcement of President Obama's Climate Action Plan

Published on **25 Jun 2013**

Written by [Rick Fedrizzi](#)

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On behalf of the green building community, I want to commend President Obama for taking a bold step forward today to combat climate change and for recognizing once again the important role that green buildings must play if we are to meet our ambitious goals. Buildings are responsible for 40 percent of the carbon emissions and can provide 40 percent of the solution if we can improve their energy efficiency.

The President's plan to cut carbon pollution puts America on an important path leading to energy independence, cleaner air and water and greater resiliency and security. The plan includes several initiatives that will help protect the environment and our planet, but these same measures will also strengthen our economy and make the nation more competitive.

The various actions to accelerate green and resilient buildings – such as ramping up the Better Buildings Challenge, the loan guarantee for efficiency projects, stronger efficiency standards, increased climate-resilient investments and the sustainable and resilient hospitals public-private partnership – show that this Administration understands the triple-bottom line value of resource efficient, green buildings. Green building currently contributes half a trillion dollars to the economy and provides jobs for upwards of 8 million people, making it an important contributor to the nation's economic recovery.

Again, I want to thank President Obama for showing tremendous leadership today for his plan and for these green building efforts, which will help Americans save money, save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help create jobs and protect our children and our planet.

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