USGBC 2011 Annual Report

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Dear friends of USGBC,

As we embark on the new year and reflect on the landmark green building accomplishments of 2012, I'd like to take a moment to also look back on 2011, a year that laid the groundwork and set the bar for many of our community's successes to date.

USGBC received audits and data covering the 2011 fiscal year this summer and in the following annual report, we'd like to share these findings with you. Reflecting holistically on 2011 gives us important insight to the future, and enables us to celebrate the incredible milestones that have pushed our movement forward and brought us to where we are today. Thanks to our faithful USGBC members, committed LEED Professionals and project teams, dedicated volunteers and advocates, and myriad other invaluable contributors, we took great strides toward our collective mission in 2011:

1. 3,500 commercial and 5,400 residential projects earned LEED certification in 2011, with cumulative totals exceeding 11,000 and 14,600, respectively. Another 31,800 commercial and 61,500 residential projects were registered. More than 125,000 projects are now part of LEED — an extraordinary accomplishment. And now we look forward to the development of LEED v4, focusing on the technical rigor of the rating system, promoting healthy and safe building materials, expanding the market sectors able to use LEED and striving for simplicity in terms of usability.
2. The USGBC App Lab launched last November as part of LEED Automation, a program that is transforming the way project teams interact with LEED data. Comprised of applications designed by LEED Automation Partners for Web browsers, tablets, smartphones and other devices, the App Lab provides tools that simplify the certification process and maximize building performance.
3. Also at the end of 2011, cumulative square footage of LEED-certified existing buildings surpassed LEED-certified new construction for the first time. Since the U.S. is home to more than 60 billion square feet of existing commercial buildings, most of which are energy guzzlers and water sieves, this trend serves as a promising indicator of our progress.
4. When enrollment closed in October 2011, more than 61,000 LEED APs had opted into LEED AP with Specialty credentials. Today, nearly 200,000 professionals hold LEED Professional credentials, including the ANSI- accredited LEED AP with specialty and LEED Green Associate designations— making the industry even better equipped to handle the different types of building and community projects springing up each day.
5. Our national and chapter members continue to work hard to fulfill President Obama's Better Buildings Initiative, announced in 2011, supporting the aim to make America's commercial buildings and plants more energy- and resource- efficient over the next decade by providing incentives for private-sector investment.
6. Our USGBC chapters continue to play a critical role in influencing local and state government policy. From the Charlotte Chapter's Environmental Sustainability Week, to the Delaware Valley Green Building Council's online "action alert" system, to the California Advocacy Committee's statewide chapter collaboration around building policy and advocacy, our chapter community is the fuel that energizes our movement.
7. In 2011, the Center for Green Schools at USGBC placed the first Green Schools Fellows in Sacramento and Boston, commissioned the first nationwide survey on green schools with founding sponsor United Technologies, hosted a Healthy Schools Summit and released its inaugural "Best of Green Schools" list. This year the newly launched Green Apple Day of Service saw participation from around the globe in a day of service to improve our community schools.

These are but a few of hundreds of initiatives that we have to celebrate, all of which give me enormous optimism for the future. Thank you for being part of the transformational journey toward a more sustainable, healthy and prosperous built environment.

Sincerely,
Rick

Editor's note: View highlights from the 2011 report in the slideshow above, or click below to access the PDF version of the full report.

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2011

Rick Fedrizzi
President, CEO & Founding Chairman
U.S. Green Building Council

Member employees, USGBC staff, USGBC board

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