The Costs And Financial Benefits Of Green Buildings

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Abstract
The common perception is that green buildings are excessively expensive and not worth the extra cost. Although once accurate, this view is now wrong: the design and construction of green buildings now cost less than two percent more than conventional buildings, substantially lower than is commonly believed. And, more important, the financial benefits far outweigh this added cost. Reduced energy, water and waste costs, reduced cost of moving, lower operations and maintenance costs, and enhanced productivity and the improved health of its occupants are but a few examples. For typical green buildings, these benefits exceed the additional costs within the first two or three years and over a 15 year period provide financial benefits about ten times larger than the extra cost of building green.

The presentation would draw and build on our extensive work in this area, including a 100+ page analysis, developed in partnership with the USGBC for 40+ California agencies on the cost and financial benefits of green buildings.

About the Author
• Founding Principal of Capital E, a national consulting firm on clean energy and green building design and deployment services. See www.cap-e.com
• Chair of the Energy and Atmosphere TAG of LEED, and on LEED Steering committee
• Former Director of Financing (for the billion dollar) Division of Efficiency and Renewable Energy, US Department of Energy
• Co-founder and Chair of International Performance Measurement & Verification Protocol, now the US standard used in over $5 billion in building upgrades, and translated into ten languages. See www.ipmvp.org
• He served on the Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Sustainability in the UK House of Lords and as Advisor to the Environment Committee of the Hungarian Parliament
• Author of 25 articles and book chapters on energy, buildings and resource economics and financing
• Speak at 4-7 conferences per year on clean energy, green building and finance issues.
• MBA from Stanford University, MPA from Princeton University, and Certified Energy Manager (US Association of Energy Engineers).

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