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2015 Green Roof Challenge

Charlotte, N.C., June 14, 2007 - The Charlotte Region Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council held its Second Annual Celebration at Founders Hall on the evening of Wednesday, May 23rd. The event featured speakers John L. Knott, Jr., CEO of the Noisette Company, and Bob Berkebile, Principal of BNIM Architects. The event's theme was "Regenerative Community Development is a Team Sport."

With strong support from Charlotte's business community, the event was a celebration of the USGBC Charlotte Region Chapter's successes, as well as an opportunity to focus on the importance of green building and development.

During the event, USGBC Charlotte Region Chapter Vice-Chair Will Weaver announced a public challenge to the City of Charlotte regarding green roofs. A green roof system is an extension of the existing roof, which involves a high quality waterproofing, and root repellent system, a drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium and plants. Citing that Charlotte's continued urbanization and sprawl has contributed to additional paving of land for buildings and roads, Mr. Weaver noted that the City's storm water systems cannot handle the increased runoff. "One need only drive down Morehead or through Dilworth during a rain storm to experience several inches of standing water on the roadways," said Weaver. Specifically, the Vice-Chair challenged Charlotte and its citizens to incorporate some fraction of a green roof system on 20% of all new construction, and 5% of existing renovated facilities by the year 2015. It was noted that the endeavor would take the cooperation of all – designers, contractors, developers, owners, politicians, building code officials and the community at large. Vice-Chair Weaver urged the Mayor's office and City Council to follow the lead of cities like Chicago, Portland, Minneapolis and others which have instituted green roof policies; and urged the local Building Department to consider the model set forth by the City of Chicago which has formalized expedited permitting and other incentive-based programs for projects incorporating vegetated roof systems.

Green roof technologies not only provide building owners with a proven return on investment, but also represent opportunities for significant economic, social and environmental benefits. Benefits of green [vegetative] roofs include a reduction in storm water run-off, a reduction in the urban heat island effect, increased thermal and acoustical insulation, and energy savings. Other benefits include improved aesthetics, habitat restoration, as well as the potential for increased park space and community gardening.

The U.S. Green Building Council was formed in 1993 to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. Now the nation's leading coalition of corporations, builders, universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations, the USGBC is the administrator of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) portfolio of programs and services and has grown to include 6,900 member companies and organizations. In testament to its leadership, in the past four years alone, USGBC's membership has tripled and over half a billion square feet of building space have been registered or certified under LEED

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The USGBC Charlotte Region Chapter is the Charlotte Region's "front door" to the Council. The chapter provides green building resources, education, and leadership in the Charlotte Region community and helps advocate for green building in order to improve the quality of life in the Charlotte Region.