



Charlotte Region  
Chapter

Volume 4, December 2007

# The R refresher

USGBC Charlotte  
Region Chapter  
P.O. Box 31384  
Charlotte, NC  
28231-1384  
<http://chapters.usgbc.org/charlotte>

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## *USGBC Chapter News...*

*A look back at 2007*

2007 was a monumental year for sustainable development, with several key developments and widespread interest in environmentally friendly buildings, from new design concepts to construction to building maintenance protocol. Sustainable design was unavoidable, grabbing attention from many of the mainstream media publications. The interest has even been apparent right here at home. When the USGBC Charlotte Region Chapter officially launched in early-Spring 2006, we knew what we were up against: perceived additional costs with building green; benefits not justifying perceived costs; inability to measure productivity; wariness of new technology or strategies; lack of education; decision-making processes too daunting; perception that buildings have no impact on the global environment, etc.

What we completely underestimated was how passionate and committed each of you could be. Together we have made a real difference, sowing deep grassroots support for common sense initiatives, policies and change. In the short duration since our Chapter's inception, we have seen some amazing things happen:

- .. Our targeted first-year membership goal has been exceeded by 600%.
- .. Participation and interest in educational programs and building tours has increased substantially.
- .. The number of LEED certified projects and number of LEED registered projects in our region has exploded exponentially.
- .. NC State Senate has ratified legislation that enables local jurisdictions to offer permit fee ordinances relative to LEED certification.
- .. Mecklenburg County has developed a Permit Fee Rebate program that will give owners back a percentage of their permit fee based off of level of LEED certification achieved.
- .. Mecklenburg County has announced a LEED certification policy for County owned facilities.
- .. Major corporations headquartered in Charlotte have adopted LEED certification policies for new buildings/spaces and are refurbishing existing spaces to enhance indoor air quality and making energy cost savings modifications as well.
- .. New community and housing developments are pursuing Healthy Built Homes, LEED-Homes and/or Energy Star certifications.
- .. Bank of America announced an unprecedented \$20 billion environmental initiative.
- .. The list goes on.

Thank You for the encouragement and support you have given to the cause. Your ongoing interest in and support of our work is one of the reasons why the past two years have been a roaring success. Since late-2005, we have tried to provide you with reliable information and perspective on market and political trends that are defining the green building movement. By keeping you informed, our objective is to help you be more effective and lead the green building movement from within. In the words of David Gottfried, founder of both the US and World Green Building Councils, "sustainable design begins and ends with people - one at a time."

Continued on page two...

**Mailing List:**

To sign up for the Charlotte Region Chapter listserv, visit us at [http://chapters.usgbc.org/charlotte/2\\_mailing.html](http://chapters.usgbc.org/charlotte/2_mailing.html)

I hope that a glance ahead to some of our 2008 initiatives is a look toward continued success as we step up to the challenges that our community will face in the coming year. In addition to our mission of education and information exchange, the Chapter will have an increased focus on advocacy - of immediate concern is the protection and improvement in outdoor air quality in North Carolina, speaking out against the Cliffside Coal-fired Steam Station; a new green home initiative - providing tools and resources for home owners, renters, home buyers and builders offering case studies, best practices and home improvement tips; a concerted effort to promote green schools to protect the health and well-being of our children - engaging parents, teachers, school administrators, PTA's and the local legislative audience; and a community service oriented focus as well - service oriented projects to actively improve the local environment and health of our community. We will also see new partnerships formed with organizations such as the Charlotte Business Journal, Sierra Club, Center City Partners and others.

One of the best mottos I know is: "Dream big. Start small. Move fast. Do Good." This is how I'd like to see the Charlotte Community approach its sustainability initiatives: by taking an informed, big-picture approach and making well-paced, steady progress in the right direction. I encourage you to make the changes in your life that you feel inspired to make. Share your successes and good experiences with others. The seeds of influence you plant gently will take root and flourish.

Wishing you a wonderful New Year,



Will Weaver  
2008 Chair  
USGBC Charlotte Region Chapter



**Reminder:**

Save some paper!  
When printing this issue of *The Refresher*, please print double-sided.

**Thanks to our 2007 Annual Sponsors**

Gold Level

*Syska Hennessy, The Linda Construction Company, RT Dooley, Clestra Houserman, Superior Stone, and Ediface*

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*MechoShade Systems, Charlotte Paint Company, SteelFab, Bonitz Flooring Group, Cook and Boardman, Warco Construction, Carolina Business Interiors, Little, HSMM, Perkins + Will, and Klingman Williams*

*For information on sponsorship, visit our website.*

## Get involved!

If you are interested in participating in a committee, please visit the Chapter website at [http://chapters.usgbc.org/charlotte/2\\_committ.html](http://chapters.usgbc.org/charlotte/2_committ.html) to find links to committee chair members. The site lists the e-mail address for all committee chairs.

# USGBC Committee News.....

## Membership

### *Assistance with your membership questions*

Get direct assistance with membership questions, managing your USGBC account, LEED project registration information, general LEED questions and more by calling the customer service hotline.

The customer service line will be operational between the hours of 9 AM - 5:30 PM EST. Within the U.S. dial 1-800-795-1747\* and 202-742-3792 for international calls.

Please take a moment to update your personal information (job change, email address, etc) with USGBC National ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)).

*We are happy to report that membership to the Charlotte Region Chapter has exceeded 300 active members!*

## Workshops

LEED for New Construction Technical Review	Charlotte, NC	01.23.2008
LEED for New Construction Technical Review	Oak Ridge, TN	02.07.2008
LEED for New Construction Technical Review	Marietta, GA	02.19.2008
LEED for Existing Buildings Technical Review	Raleigh, NC	02.22.2008
LEED Charrette Facilitation	Clemson, SC	02.26.2008
LEED for New Construction Technical Review	Raleigh, NC	02.29.2008

To register for a Workshop, visit: <http://www.usgbc.org/Workshops/Workshoplist.aspx?CMSPageID=289>

## Programming

Third Creek Elementary School - Building Tour [LEED Gold Certified]	01.18.2008
Membership   Networking Social Event	02.13.2008

## Advocacy

### *The President Signs Energy Bill containing The 2030 Challenge targets*

After being passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Energy Independence and Security Act became law yesterday with the President's signature. Section 433 of this bill requires that all federal buildings meet the energy performance standards of The 2030 Challenge. The key passage in this section states that:

*buildings shall be designed so that the fossil fuel-generated energy consumption of the buildings is reduced, as compared with such energy consumption by a similar building in fiscal year 2003 (as measured by Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey or Residential Energy Consumption Survey data from the Energy Information Agency), by the percentage specified in the following table:*

Fiscal Year	Percentage Reduction
2010	55
2015	65
2020	80
2025	90
2030	100

For more information or to view Section 433 of the bill - visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c110query.html> and search "Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007"

Our core values:

“To transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.”

## USGBC Committee News (continued)

### Emerging Green Builders (EGB)

*Get involved!*

What is EGB? EGB stands for Emerging Green Builders. This group of young business professionals meets monthly to engage in focused discussions of relevant Green Building issues.

For more information on how to get involved with EGB, please contact Sara O'Mara at [Somara@choateco.com](mailto:Somara@choateco.com) or 704.556.0550.

### Communications

*Call for submissions*

To submit information for future issues of *The Refresher*, or to get involved with the Communications Committee, please send your information to Jim Williams at [JWilliams@littleonline.com](mailto:JWilliams@littleonline.com)

### Green Awards 2008

The *Charlotte Business Journal* and the USGBC Charlotte Region Chapter want to recognize those who are going green at the inaugural 2008 Green Awards event. This event will honor those who make efforts to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into their businesses and community work. By doing so, they show others how to strengthen the environmental health of our region.

The Green Awards will recognize businesses, individuals, government entities and leaders, and nonprofit organizations in two main categories - General Awards and Green Building Awards. Within those two categories, there are a total of 20 awards. Nominations are now being accepted. For more information, or to submit a nomination, use the following link: <http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/nominations/1130>.

You can register for the event online at <http://events.bizjournals.com/3921>.

Date: April 16, 2008  
Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Networking; 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, Luncheon Event  
Location: Charlotte Convention Center Ballroom  
Cost: \$60 individual ticket / \$550 table of 8

## STAY TUNED....

Beginning in early 2008, the Charlotte Region Chapter newsletter - *The Refresher* - will be emerging with a “new and improved” look. We look forward to providing our members with current and relevant information relating to our local chapter, our region, our state, and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who's hard work and dedication made this year a success!

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