



MONTANA

December Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Upcoming Events:

Green Schools
Committee Meeting
1st Tuesday; January 6th,
4:00-5:00, conference call

Membership and
Communications
Committee Meeting
2nd Thursday; Jan 8th
4:00-5:00, conference call

Education, Programs, and
Events Committee
Meeting
2nd Tuesday; Jan 13th
4:00-5:00, conference call

Repowering Montana
Schools Conference
January 14-15, Helena
The Green Schools
Committee will try to meet
face2face- TBD

Board Meeting
3rd Weds; Jan 21st
4:00-5:00, conference call

Chapter Annual Meeting
February, to be
announced soon...

You can find these and
other upcoming events on
the chapter website,
[http://chapters.usgbc.org/
montana/events.html](http://chapters.usgbc.org/montana/events.html)

Chapter News:

Nominations and Elections

The Board is looking for 5 new directors to round out our leadership team! If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors for the USGBC Montana Chapter, or know someone who would be excellent for the position, please take a moment to fill out the nomination form. The call for nominations will be open through Dec 31. We will compile a list of eligible candidates for a vote, and open an online voting booth to chapter members for two weeks in January. New Board members will be announced and welcomed during the annual Chapter Membership Meeting tentatively scheduled for February.

Greenbuild 2009 Call for proposals

Greenbuild 2009 will be held in Phoenix, AZ, hosted by the Arizona Chapter. This is the first Greenbuild to be held in the West Region, offering a great opportunity for Montanans to get involved.

From Rich Michal, AZ Southern Branch Chairperson:

"Greenbuild 2009 is going to be a great opportunity for us to focus and highlight the issues critical to us in the West such as water, solar, and land planning to only name a few. In order for us to accomplish this and to advocate to National for special Regional Educational Tracts focusing on our unique issues, we need to make sure that we have plenty of sessions proposals from the West Region submitted for consideration by the programming committee. So please encourage your members and local Universities to consider submitting a session proposal prior to the January 16 deadline."

Two important LEED updates for 2009:

1. LEED 2009 will roll out early next year (don't worry, the exam won't change for several months, click here for timeline) which will include new and changed credits, re-weighting of credit value, introduction of regional ID points, and more. These changes will also be accompanied by improvements to LEED online- now that's a change worth celebrating! You can learn more at USGBC.org.

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2. Starting next year, the LEED AP credential will require maintenance. For some this will simply require signing onto a disciplinary policy to remain a "Legacy LEED AP". To become a LEED Green Associate or LEED Accredited Professional with a specialization, requirements will include continuing education and additional testing. More information can be found at GBCI.org.

Greenbuild 2008

This year at USGBC's annual conference in Boston, green building just got bigger... and Montana proved to be a source of inspiration and innovation on many levels. Janine Benyus, founder of the Biomimicry Institute in Montana, www.biomimicryinstitute.org/, and author of [Biomimicry; Innovation Inspired by Nature](#), made her second Greenbuild key note appearance along side of renowned Biologist, E.O. Wilson. In her address, Janine introduced the new web portal www.asknature.org, where scientists, engineers, and designers can engage in virtual idea cross-pollination. Check it out!

More Montanans at Greenbuild: In a well attended educational session, Jan Brown presented the Yellowstone Business Partnership's Greater Yellowstone Framework for Sustainability, moderated by Dr. Kath Williams. Whitney Schwab and Peter Stark hosted an exhibit booth for North Slope Sustainable Wood, their local company based out of Missoula. We also met a few local Chapter members, including Heather Burdette (also with YBP), Karin Hilding, Tim Southwell, and Eric Weckenbrock.

Greenbuild is full of wonderful green ideas, inspiring project examples, and dynamic speakers. The best of these presentations is available free, year round on www.Greenbuild365.org, under the tab "Greenbuild Expo Library".

Committee Highlight!

Theresa Racicot in Bozeman has stepped up as committee Chair for the Education, Programs, and Events Committee. With a Chapter Annual Membership Meeting coming up in February and addressing 2009 Changes in LEED and the LEED AP credential maintenance, this committee will be BUSY!

If you are interested in learning more or thinking about joining this or any other committee, please contact the committee chair (you can find them on our website committee page, <http://chapters.usgbc.org/montana/committees.html>) or email Montana@chapters.usgbc.org

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Bulletin:

Green Drinks in Billings is looking for volunteers to help organize their monthly get-together. Please contact montana@chapters.usgbc.org if you are interested.

Living Future 2009 – A premier green building conference in your own backyard. Looking for a truly forward-thinking and solution-catalyzing event that will allow you to interact with fellow deep green professionals and lessen the carbon footprint of your annual travel? On May 6-8, 2009 the Cascadia Region Green Building Council will host Living Future '09 in Portland, OR -- the region's premier unconference for green building, where the movers and shakers of the movement convene to discuss the challenging issues and create real solutions.

Keynote speakers include Janine Benyus, internationally acclaimed author of *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*; Rick Fedrizzi, President and CEO of USGBC; Thomas Crum, renowned conflict resolution expert; and Jason F. McLennan, CEO of Cascadia Region Green Building Council. For more information and to register, visit www.cascadiagbc.org/living-future/09. The Montana Chapter is partnering with Cascadia to help inform west coast professionals about this lauded event. Members of the Chapter are eligible for the Cascadia member discounted rate!

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) in Chicago is taking part in a project with the US Green Building Council to develop a matrix that will assess the transportation energy intensity (TEI) of buildings. TEI is a measure of the amount of energy used in getting people to and from a specific building. CNT is looking for businesses and organizations that would be willing to participate in data collection for the project. Parties interested in participating would be asked to supply background information about the building in which they are located and send out an inquiry to building staff asking them to take a transportation commute survey. This is a short survey that explores employee commuting patterns. The building does not have to be LEED certified for inclusion in the project. Please contact Harley Cooper at harley@cnt.org if you have any questions or would like to take part.

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