



City of Dallas News Release

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Dallas-Fort Worth area Recognized for Burgeoning LEED Green Building Projects

Nearly 90 commercial projects and 223 homes certified in 2010 under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system

Dallas, Tex. (March 10, 2011) –The Metroplex skyline has never looked greener. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) today noted that 87 commercial projects and 223 homes in the Dallas-Fort-Worth region have achieved LEED green building certification in 2010, and 10 of the homes achieved LEED's highest rating, Platinum.

“Dallas has been ahead of the curve as a recognized champion of green homebuilding,” said Nate Kredich, Vice President, Residential Market Development, USGBC. “As one of the first LEED for Homes Affiliates, the Home Builders Association of Greater Dallas has educated and advocated for green homebuilding on behalf of its members and has spur green building growth in the local area.”

Despite the construction slump, in 2010 LEED green projects continued to be considered a bright spot in the real estate market in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Last year 223 homes earned LEED certification throughout Dallas-Fort Worth. Greenhaven, a nine-building multifamily project in McKinney, earned LEED Silver across all of its 200 units, as did several Habitat for Humanity homes in the Frazier Courtyard subdivision of South Dallas.

4529 Congo Street, built by local nonprofit buildingcommunityWORKSHOP, earned LEED Platinum, as did six homes in Alamo Heights, Crowley, Dallas and Fort Worth. The private residences were built by Larry Christensen General Contractors, Ferrier Custom Homes, Stephen Jackson Construction and Lake/Flato Architects.

At the Texas Green Home Summit in February 2011, McGuyer Homebuilders, Inc. announced it will pursue LEED for Homes certification for all homes under its signature brands—Plantation Homes, Coventry Homes and Carmel Builders—across the greater Dallas-Fort Worth market, which will make MHI the largest builder of single-family LEED homes in the Texas market.

“Even over the past several years, we have seen consistent movement in the green building arena, but growth in residential markets –within the multifamily/apartment segment in particular – has been tremendous in Dallas,” said Jonathan Kraatz, Executive Director, North Texas Chapter of USGBC. “The LEED for Homes will continue to grow as more and more consumer push builders and developers to adopt these practices.”

In addition to residential traction, there are 165 LEED-certified commercial and institutional projects and 611 registered projects throughout Dallas-Fort Worth. Notable newly certified projects in 2010 include the Dallas Convention Center; Hard Rock Café; Southwest Airlines' general use industrial building at Love Field; an Old Navy store in Fort Worth; three Dallas Fire Stations; St. Alcuin Montessori School, and the LEED Platinum Student Services Building at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Two architectural mainstays of the Dallas cityscape—Chase Tower Dallas, designed by Richard Keating, and I.M. Pei's Energy Plaza—both earned LEED certification as existing buildings this past year. The Dallas headquarters

and offices of national corporations and local businesses also certified in 2010, including Bank of America, Independent Bank, JCPenney and Turner Construction.

Dallas has been a longtime supporter of green building initiatives and legislation. In 2003, many years before most cities in the U.S. developed policies on green building, the Dallas Public Works and Transportation Department passed Resolution 03-0367, requiring all city buildings larger than 10,000 square feet in the 2003 Bond Program and subsequent bond programs to achieve LEED Silver. In 2007, the Resolution was updated to require projects to earn LEED Gold and to achieve specific Water Efficiency and Energy & Atmosphere credits available in the LEED rating system.

“Dallas’ decision to require new building projects earn LEED certification stemmed from a city-wide desire to keep the full life cycle cost of buildings as low as possible,” said Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager, City of Dallas. “We selected LEED Silver as the definition of green because LEED is flexible, easy to understand, and verifiable by third parties. We migrated to LEED Gold because we found that the higher level could be obtained at little to no extra cost under the guidance of seasoned project managers.”

USGBC’s LEED green building program is the preeminent third-party certification system for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of green buildings and communities. Nearly 40,000 commercial projects are currently in the LEED systems, either as a certified or registered project. Projects in the pipeline comprise over 7.9 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 117 countries, with more than 1.3 billion square feet having earned certification.

For the full list of LEED-certified projects nationally visit: www.usgbc.org/press

U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 79 local affiliates, 16,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 162,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of green buildings. Nearly 40,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising over 7.9 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 117 countries. In addition, more than 10,000 homes have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system, with nearly 45,000 more homes registered.

By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

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