



PRESS RELEASE

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USGBC Looks to the Builders Association Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend Green Built *Program to Advance Green Residential Housing Market and Third-Party Certification*

June 29, 2010 – (Washington, D.C.) –The Builders Association Corpus Christi is the most recent regional home builders associations (HBA) in the country to be selected as a LEED for Homes Affiliate, according to the U.S. Green Building Council in its introduction of the new LEED for Homes green homebuilding Affiliate Program.

Developed solely to work with successful, regional HBAs, USGBC has launched the new program to encourage continued growth and increase the availability of the green homes stock. Local collaboration with HBAs across the country will further sustainable design, energy and resource efficiency in all dwellings.

The Builders Association of Corpus Christi utilizes its own third party green homebuilding certification system, which is specifically designed to address residential energy efficiency in extreme climates.

“The Coastal Bend Green Built program has a regionally-specific green building construction protocol that conforms to higher standards of site management, water efficiency, indoor air quality, energy efficiency and homeowner education,” says Garrett Dorsey III, Chair, Coastal Bend Green Built Program. “To date, we have certified 111 homes through the Coastal Bend Green Built program. Now, as a LEED for Homes affiliate we offer even more options to the community of builders we serve, and greater educational opportunities for their customers who want green homes.”

“This is an important step forward as we advocate for full marketplace adoption of green homebuilding. One of the greatest benefits of the LEED green home certification program is its continual progress and flexibility,” said Nate Kredich, Vice President, Residential Market Development, U.S. Green Building Council. “Nowhere is that flexibility more evident than in our ability to work through local and regional HBAs to promote green homes in their areas.”

The collaborations illustrate how smoothly LEED works with other third-party green homebuilding programs. USGBC will further support its LEED for Homes Affiliates by helping HBAs educate and advocate on behalf of their members. To address the need for knowledgeable green homebuilding professionals, the Green Building Certification Institute implemented specializations for its LEED professional credentialing. The LEED Accredited Professional + Homes specialty allows LEED AP candidates to specialize as a green homebuilding expert in the residential field, advancing the construction of green homes by employing green building professionals.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration, households account for 20 percent of energy consumed in the U.S. and 21 percent of carbon emissions. Furthermore, the DOE reports U.S. residential energy use has grown by 34 percent since 1985. Though green homebuilding

programs are growing in popularity, the task of market transformation is an ongoing process, as some 120 million homes need energy efficiency improvements and retrofits.

For more information on how to become a LEED for Homes Affiliate or on the LEED for Homes Affiliate Program, [please click here](#).

About LEED for Homes

LEED-certified homes are built with efficiency and health in mind, so they have the potential to save residents money on energy and water bills, reduce their carbon footprints and environmental impact, and protect their health. Based on Home Energy Rating System (HERS) tests performed on homes certified during 2008, the average home certified at the LEED-certification level is predicted to have potential energy savings of up to 30% over homes built to International Energy Conservation Code, a widely used standard; the average LEED-Platinum home could use as much as 60% less energy than an IECC-built home. Many LEED homes gain certification in part due to a focus on indoor environmental quality. These homes typically have better ventilation, use paints and products that emit little or no dangerous volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and/or implement advanced moisture-control strategies, among other health considerations. To date, there are 6,378 LEED certified homes with another 26,235 registered with LEED.

U.S. Green Building Council

The USGBC community is transforming the way we build, design and operate our buildings for healthier places that save precious resources for people to live, work, learn and play in. USGBC is helping create buildings and communities that regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life within a generation. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Council is the driving force of the green building industry, which is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product by 2013. USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials, concerned citizens, teachers and students. The USGBC community comprises 80 local chapters, 17,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 150,000 individuals who have earned LEED Professional Credentials. Visit www.usgbc.org for more information.

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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