



## A Letter from the 2009 USGBC CT-B Chair Heather Venhaus

In 1936 President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a nation in the midst of an economic crisis and facing the possibility of war on multiple fronts. He responded by saying, "There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." Through a sense of moral obligation and self-preservation, men and women around the world rose to the challenge and changed the course of history.

The parallels between that time and now abound. The down turn of the economy, prolonged war in hostile lands, and growing natural resource shortages can all seem overwhelming.

I am proud to say the green building movement is essential to our nation's recovery. Our Chapter's vision, "Buildings and communities that regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life," is helping to set the benchmark for the change the world needs and is supported by a diverse membership who can make it happen. The Central Texas Chapter is made up of professionals advancing the fields of renewable energy, environmental education, green building, and sustainable material manufacturing, reuse and recycling (just to name a few). An impressive group of people, who I believe will rise to the challenge and seize the opportunity to improve the world around them and leave the next generation with something wonderful. As President Obama noted at his inauguration, "Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real, they are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met."

Our Board of Directors understands the potential of our Chapter and the leadership we can offer to Central Texas and beyond. To keep the Chapter moving forward and meeting the demands of our region, the Board has been busy working on several important tasks — the development of an intensive two-year strategic plan, long-term financial planning, a detailed chapter membership survey and the hiring of our first executive director, Jane Baxter Lynn.

It is a dynamic time and I am excited and honored to be part of the Chapter's leadership, serving as Chair over the next year. We've got a lot of hard work ahead of us and need your involvement and support to reach our full potential. The world is at a tipping point, but despite the global turmoil, there is every indication that with our help and determination history will repeat itself and the world will move towards a better more sustainable future. I look forward to working with you to continue our success.

Heather Venhaus  
Chair of the Central Texas Balcones Chapter