



Central Texas – Balcones
www.usgbc-centraltexas.org

U.S. Green Building Council At A Glance

What is The U.S. Green Building Council?

- The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.
- Founded in 1993, USGBC is transforming 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 for everyone. Its mission is the transformation of the building industry to make a reality the vision of green buildings for all within a generation.
- USGBC encourages green design, construction and operation practices through a variety of educational offerings, extensive member and chapter networks, its annual Greenbuild Conference, and LEED, the foremost green building certification system for the design, construction and operation of green buildings and neighborhoods.
- With a community comprising 80 local USGBC chapters and affiliates, more than 18,000 member companies and organizations worldwide, and some 140,000 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 between 2009 and 2013.
- USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, teachers and students.
- With buildings accounting for over 72% of all electricity consumed in America, it is necessary to address more efficient building practices. Reducing consumption is the cornerstone of energy efficiency, which is fundamental to the USGBC's mission.
- In 2009, an estimated 82% of corporate America was greening at least 16% of their real estate portfolios.

What is the USGBC Central Texas – Balcones Chapter?

- Founded in 2003, the Central Texas - Balcones Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc-centraltexas.org) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to accelerating growth in sustainable building and land development practices in Central & South Texas through innovation, education, advocacy and partnerships.
- The Chapter's role is to promote the use of green building and sustainable development practices to local, regional and state government, educational institutions, those involved in the residential and commercial construction, development and realty sectors, and others who might influence the implementation of these practices.
- The Chapter has more than 500 members comprising building and associated industry professionals from Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Rio Grande Valley and the surrounding 72 counties.
- There are more than 1,000 LEED Accredited Professionals in the Chapter region; nearly 100 LEED certified buildings and more than 300 registered LEED projects in the planning or construction stage.
- The Chapter hosts LEED® workshops, study groups, educational sessions on sustainable technologies and applications and offers networking events for the region's green-building community.
- The Central Texas - Balcones Chapter offers members a variety of volunteer opportunities, including serving on committees such as advocacy, communications, development, education and membership.

What is LEED?

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) was created by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage and accelerate the adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria for new and existing buildings.

- LEED is the country's preeminent third party certification program and the internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings in both commercial and residential fields.
- There are currently more than 35,000 commercial projects participating in the LEED system, comprising over 4.5 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 U.S. states and 91 countries. The program is now administered by Green Building Certification Institute (www.gbci.org).
- 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.
- LEED Certified Buildings in our Chapter in San Antonio include: the Zachry Construction Corp. HQ (Gold), Employment and Conference Center (Gold), and Trane Regional Headquarters (Silver); in Austin: Dell Children's Hospital (Platinum), The Ronald McDonald House (Platinum) and Austin City Hall (Gold), and in Waco: Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary (Certified).
- **Certification:** Have your home, business or development LEED certified with the help of one of over a thousand LEED Accredited Professionals in Central and South Texas.
- **Accreditation and Credential Maintenance:** Attain LEED Professional Accreditation through the Green Building Certification Institute www.gbci.org and join over 140,000 professionals already promoting green building practices. Continue your credentials with programs through the chapter.

How can you participate?

Membership:

There are two types of USGBC Membership - USGBC National Membership for companies and organizations, and Chapter Membership for individuals interested in being involved in the green building and sustainable development movement.

- **USGBC National Membership:** For companies and organizations only, visit www.usgbc.org. As an employee of a National Member Organization you are entitled to a discount on Chapter Membership. However you are not automatically a Chapter Member and are not entitled to discounts on Chapter activities unless you are an individual Chapter Member.
- **Chapter Membership:** Chapter membership is for individuals wishing to be involved in and support the region's green building movement. There are four membership levels available - Basic, National Member Employee, Student and Bulk Membership. Join the Chapter at www.usgbc-centraltexas.org

Annual dues are:

- Regular Member: \$65.00
- Employee of a National Member Organization (30% discount): \$45.50
- Full-Time Student (60% discount): \$26.00

Chapter Membership Advantages:

- Actively participate in the green building movement
- Potentially influence the Chapter's mission and activities by serving in leadership positions and using your voting privileges
- Expand your professional network
- Be in the Membership Directory accessible to the public
- Obtain discounted prices for Chapter-presented educational events and other programs
- Advance notice via email of upcoming events and educational workshops, as well as newsletters, member-only events, and much more.

Sponsorships and Donations:

There are numerous tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and individuals wishing to support the green building movement. Your organization can become a Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze or Green Sponsor for one year or sponsor an individual event, workshop or seminar. In-Kind sponsorships are also considered. Donations to support the Chapter's work are also tax deductible and may be made simply and easily through the Chapter's website.

For further information please visit www.usgbc-centraltexas.org, e-mail: info@usgbc-centraltexas.org or call 512-470-9923.