



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Christopher Gray
Media Specialist, USGBC
202-828-1169

cgray@usgbc.org

Follow us on Twitter @USGBC

Local Contact:

Brian Imus
Executive Director, USGBC-Illinois
312-245-8300 x201

bimus@usgbc-illinois.org

Illinois Ranks First State in Nation for LEED Green Building Per Capita

USGBC releases the Top 10 States for LEED in 2014

Washington, D.C. — (Feb. 4, 2015) — Today, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) released its annual ranking of the Top 10 States in the nation for LEED, the world's most widely used and recognized green building rating system, with the state of Illinois placing first.

The per-capita list highlights states throughout the country that are making impactful strides in sustainable building design, construction and transformation. LEED-certified spaces use less energy and water resources, save money for families, businesses and taxpayers, reduce carbon emissions and create a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

"Every story about a green building is a story about people," said Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and founding chair, USGBC. "USGBC's annual recognition of the Top 10 States for LEED goes beyond gross square feet or number of projects and factors in LEED's potential in a given state to be part of the daily life of the state's residents. This per-capita approach tells a great story about how LEED has become an important benchmark in the transformation of the nation's built environment. LEED certified buildings and the innovations they have driven contribute substantially to our national economic growth, create jobs and improve the quality of life in the communities where they are found. We commend the business and community leaders, policy makers and green building professionals in each of these states for making the commitment to create a healthier, more sustainable future.

"Illinois has so many committed business and community leaders, policy makers and green building professionals who are using LEED to transform their built environment, producing many innovative spaces that will improve the health of our shared planet, as well as the health of the people who use those buildings every day," added Fedrizzi.

The per-capita list is based on 2010 U.S. Census data and includes commercial and institutional green building projects that were certified throughout 2014. Illinois certified 174 projects representing 42,457,254 square feet of real estate, or 3.31 square feet per resident, in 2014.

USGBC calculates the list using per-capita figures as a measure of the human element of green building, allowing for a fair comparison of the level of green building taking place among states with significant differences in population and, accordingly, number of overall buildings.

"Illinois has long been a green building trend setter where companies have made sustainability part of their business plan," said Brian Imus, executive director of USGBC Illinois Chapter. "As a result, Illinois is now positioned to be a leading exporter of sustainable technology and design to emerging markets where demand for LEED is growing exponentially."

A sample of notable projects that certified in Illinois in 2014 include:

- NBC Tower in Chicago, recertified as LEED Gold
- Advanced Protein Characterization Facility at Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, LEED Gold
- 540 West Madison in Chicago, recertified as LEED Platinum
- Ridgewood High School in Norridge, LEED Silver
- The Aon Center, a 3.2 million-square-foot tower in Chicago owned by Jones Lang LaSalle, LEED Silver
- GE Transportation Headquarters in Chicago, LEED Gold
- The FBI Regional Office in Chicago, LEED Platinum
- The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign's Maudelle Tanner Brown Bousfield Hall in Champaign, LEED Platinum

There are more than 487 USGBC member organizations with a headquarters in Illinois and more than 10,273 LEED credential professionals across the state.

The full ranking of the top 10 states includes:

Rank	State	Projects certified in 2014	Square feet LEED certified in 2014	Per-capita square footage
1	Illinois	174	42,457,254	3.31
2	Colorado	102	15,816,498	3.15
3	Maryland	132	15,583,423	2.70
4	Virginia	150	18,617,712	2.33
5	Massachusetts	99	14,662,950	2.20
6	Hawaii	30	2,657,808	1.95
7	California	517	69,762,936	1.87
8	Georgia	87	17,748,781	1.83
9	Minnesota	39	9,511,684	1.79
10 (tied)	Arizona	82	11,152,201	1.74
10 (tied)	New York	250	33,691,209	1.74
*	Washington, D.C.	102	17,716,622	29.44

*Washington, D.C., is not ranked as it is a federal district, not a state.

Collectively, 1,662 commercial and institutional projects became LEED certified within the top 10 states in 2014, representing 251.7 million square feet of real estate. Worldwide, 4,502 projects were certified in 2014, representing 675.7 million square feet.

More than 26,600 projects representing 3.6 billion square feet of space have been LEED-certified to date, with another 42,000 projects representing 8.8 billion square feet in the pipeline for certification. USGBC

launched LEED v4, the newest version of the rating system, in the fall of 2013. The latest version continues to raise the bar for the entire green building industry, which Forbes Magazine projects could be worth up to \$960 billion globally by 2023. LEED v4 features increased technical rigor; new market sector adaptations for data centers, warehouses and distribution centers, hospitality, existing schools, existing retail and midrise residential projects; and a simplified submittal process supported by a robust and intuitive technology platform.

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About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual [Greenbuild International Conference & Expo](#), the [Center for Green Schools](#) and [advocacy](#) in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org, explore the [Green Building Information Gateway \(GBIG\)](#) and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of green buildings. Every day, more than 1.85 million square feet of space is certified using LEED. More than 68,600 commercial and institutional projects are currently participating in LEED, comprising 12.4 billion square feet of construction space in over 150 countries and territories. In addition, more than 71,400 residential units have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system. Learn more at usgbc.org/LEED.