Texas
2013 Green Building Market Activity

Market Transformation
The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED green building program transforms the way buildings and communities are designed, built, maintained and operated. Over 51,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising over 9.5 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 120 countries. In addition, more than 32,000 homes have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system, with close to 96,000 more homes registered. LEED projects enable an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life. Green building job growth spurs product and service provider innovation to meet demand for high performance green buildings. In turn, LEED project activity drives green building demand, creates competition, reduces costs and raises consumer expectations and awareness. To access public directories for USGBC members, LEED projects and LEED credentialed professionals, please go to www.usgbc.org/directories.

Government Leadership
Government leadership plays a critical role in educating communities and creating conditions that spur market activity. 2011 legislation (HB51) commits state buildings to high-performance green building standards, as defined by the State Energy Conservation Office. Communities throughout Texas, from Houston to El Paso, have demonstrated a commitment to promoting better building practices and, often, to building high-performance, green government buildings. Nine local governments have enacted LEED-based green building policies and initiatives. Leading by example, the State of Texas has 26 LEED certified buildings that are owned or occupied by state government. In addition, Houston ranks 4th and Dallas ranks 13th for U.S. cities with the most LEED projects owned or operated by a local government.

Houston ranks 4th for U.S. Cities with the most LEED projects

Communities throughout Texas are beginning to invest in schools that create a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while saving energy, resources and money. Demonstrating its commitment to better built schools, Texas is a member of the Collaborative for High Performance Schools and has 255 LEED registered and certified schools throughout the state. To date, of the nation’s 20 largest school districts, 80% have committed to green school construction.

A Texas Green Building Community
There are currently 690 organizations headquartered in Texas that are members of the U.S. Green Building Council. These organizations represent the diverse segments of the green building industry, employing more than 30,919,000 people and grossing more than $250 billion in annual revenue.

The four Texas chapters of the U.S. Green Building Council (comprising Central Texas-Balcones, Chihuahuan Desert, North Texas and Texas Gulf Coast) represent thousands of members across the state. The chapters collectively function as the premier forum for green practice, science and policy within the state. Collectively and individually, the chapters also lead education, research, advocacy initiatives, and host events that offer leadership and networking opportunities for the green building industry and the community at large.

There are also 9,650 LEED credentialed professionals in Texas, and the number is growing fast. These are individuals in various fields who hold this credential to allow them to compete and perform more effectively in the green building market.
LEED Certified Buildings, Schools, Homes, and Neighborhoods

Texas ranks 2nd nationally in total number of commercial buildings that are LEED certified and pursuing LEED certification with a market of over 2,974 LEED registered and certified projects.

Residents of Texas are beginning to understand the benefits to building and living in green homes. Generally, homes built to LEED are more comfortable and durable as well as more energy and water efficient. There are 18,641 LEED registered and certified homes in Texas, as well as 520 Affordable homes, many which were built by Habitat for Humanity-Dallas, and 166 low-rise multi-family homes built by the Houston-based, New Hope Housing. There are also 6 LEED for Neighborhood Development projects impacting more than 1,250 acres of development.

Saving energy, water and money through high-performance green buildings that are built above and beyond code is increasingly prevalent in Texas. Government leadership and policy initiatives play an important role in making Texas an even more important state for businesses leading in the emerging green economy.

Texas Spotlight:
Huitt-Zollars Building, Dallas, TX

The Huitt-Zollars Building received LEED Gold for Commercial Interiors in 2007. High performance design strategies assisted in achieving the goal of a high-quality, open floor plan, which helped to create a collaborative, healthy environment for employees, clients, and visitors. The cost for implementing LEED for the office only accounted for 2% of the total budget. The office was designed to provide 97% of employees views to the outdoors while interior offices utilize transparent walls to provide views and daylighting to 77% of the employees.

The use of low-flow faucets, urinals, and toilets has also allowed Huitt-Zollars to achieve a 36% water use reduction compared to conventional fixtures. The incorporation of occupancy sensors, daylight harvesting sensors, and enhanced commissioning all serve to minimize power consumption, which can be verified through the office’s electrical sub metering. Notable high performance design features include the use of low-emitting materials, utilizing recycled and refurbished content for 84% of all materials installed, and incorporating materials that were manufactured within 500 miles of the office. Over 81% of the office waste was diverted from landfills.

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