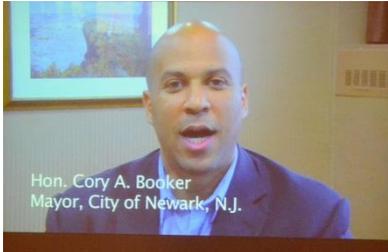




US Green Building Council New Jersey Chapter 11th Annual Gala & Awards Dinner a Huge Success

The U.S. Green Building Council New Jersey Chapter (USGBC NJ) recently held our [11th Annual Gala & Awards Dinner](#), and the event was electric with the excitement about the green building market transformation across New Jersey. Held on October 9, 2013 at the beautiful New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, our Master of Ceremonies this year was [Edward Walsh](#), PE, Principal & Managing Director of Project Management, Avison Young.



The **Honorable Cory Booker, Mayor of Newark, NJ** was scheduled as keynote, but was pulled away for a senatorial debate. (He has since won the Special Election.) Mayor Booker, also a Gala Honoree for the Newark Sustainability Action Plan, delivered his [keynote via video](#). Members of the Newark Environmental Commission accepted the award in his honor. We were also privileged to have **Senator Bob Smith**, chairman of the NJ Senate's Environment Committee, address



the crowd in person. Our corporate honoree was Hampshire Real Estate Companies for their accomplishments in the Sustainability arena as developer of the year.

In addition, each year USGBC NJ recognizes and presents Gala Awards to companies and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and best practices in green building and sustainability. Previous honorees include: Colgate Global Technology Center; PNC Bank; NJ Economic Development Authority; Newark's Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District; Jersey Shore University Medical Center; BASF Corporation and the Rockefeller Group.

The 2013 Gala Award winners are:

- **Corporate Culture of Sustainability & Best Practices:**
 - Panasonic Corporation of North America
 - Prudential Real Estate Investors
- **Urban Green Project:** The Edge Mixed Use Building in Hoboken (Bijou Properties and Steven Winter Associates)
- **Suburban Green Project:**
 - Center 78 (Normandy Real Estate Partners)
 - Wyndham Worldwide LEED Certified Campus
- **Not For Profit - Commercial:** The Bolger Community Center (Peter Wells Architects, LLC)
- **Not For Profit - Residential:** Van Sciver Permanent Supportive Housing Development (Vantage Health System, Inc.)
- **Special Impact Award - Education:** Leadership for Sustainable Schools (NJ School Boards Association)
- **Student Award:** Bay Head Resilient Design Project, being accepted by James Giresi, on behalf of all of the students in the Spring 2013, 'Garden State Studio', Susan Bristol, Professor, NJIT (Eric Barreira; Mina Choi; Richard Clark; James Giresi; Michael Hertl; Pablo Lopez; Timothy Man; Bryan Miksiewicz; Christopher Sala; and Kaitlyn Sena)

- **Honorable Mention:** Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield - NJ Headquarters
- **Honorable Mention - Residential Resiliency:** Holmes-Rulli Residence (Designs for Life LLC)

These winners represent a wide range of the best practices in sustainability and green design that New Jersey has to offer. We are proud to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the professionals, projects and organizations that are transforming New Jersey into a more sustainable state impacting economics, health and the environment.

Among their many accomplishments, the award winners and those receiving honorable mentions, contribute to the diversity of the USGBC NJ mission and serve as role models to others in our community and business world. They are ‘paying it forward’ by educating the public and/or landowners/clients in the principles of sustainable design and the LEED® programs. These inspiring projects span a wide range of topics, including: the renovation and upgrade of a landmark barn into a new ambulance core and community meeting space (The Bolger Community Center); a LEED Gold housing project for those with special needs (mentally ill and/or homeless) (Van Sciver Permanent Supportive Housing Development); corporations investing in green buildings to not only improve their bottom lines, but also to serve as an example to customers, clients, and other businesses (Wyndham Worldwide/ Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield); and working collaboratively to improve the environmental health and operations of NJ schools, making them safer and more cost-effective places to learn and work (New Jersey School Boards Association). For more on these and ALL the award winners, please see the [Winning Project Descriptions](#).



The Newark contingent accepting their award on behalf of Mayor Cory Booker and the Newark Sustainability Action Plan! Left to right: Stephanie Greenwood (Sustainability Director, City of Newark); Florence Block (ED, USGBC NJ); Chelsea Albucher (Newark EC member & former Sustainability Director); Robert Thomas (Sustainability Energy Manager); and Kim Gaddy (Chair, Newark Environmental Commission).

As stated, the 2013 **Municipal Honoree is Mayor Cory Booker, for the Newark Sustainability Action Plan**. Mayor Booker took the oath of office as Mayor of New Jersey’s largest city in 2006 following a sweeping electoral victory and was re-elected to a second term in 2010. Elected with a clear mandate for change, Mayor Booker has begun work on realizing a bold vision for the city. Newark’s mission is to set a national standard for urban transformation by marshalling its resources to achieve security, economic abundance and an environment that is nurturing and empowering for individuals and families. On Oct. 17, 2013, Mayor Booker won his bid for US Senate. **The Newark Sustainability Action Plan** outlines strategies to address Newark’s key environment issues with the goal of creating a healthier, more prosperous future for the city. It represents a commitment from the City of Newark to incorporate sustainability into municipal operations as well as into city policies, programs, and partnerships with community members. ([Click here for more info.](#))

As mentioned above, the 2013 **Corporate Honoree is Hampshire Real Estate Companies**. Hampshire has an impressive set of Sustainability Principles and Guidelines. These include striving to cost effectively limit the environmental footprint of the firm’s operations and assets, while maintaining the primary

obligation as fiduciary to our investors. It is also a priority to educate Hampshire's tenants, partners, consultants, and employees as to the benefits of sustainability efforts. In addition, Hampshire endeavors to measure and strive to reduce the energy use, water consumption, and waste production of the firm's assets, where practicable. ([Click here for more info.](#))

Senator Smith impressed the savvy crowd with his depth of understanding on green building and energy-related issues. Having served in the New Jersey State Legislature since 1986 first as a State Assemblyman and more recently as State Senator, Bob Smith is considered one of the State's leading environmental lawmakers. He has also been a tireless advocate for NJ residents affected by Superstorm Sandy. In fact, this past August, USGBC NJ Vice Chair Wayne DeFeo, on behalf of our Advocacy Committee, attended a joint [New Jersey Senate/Assembly committee meeting](#) featuring Senator Smith. As a result of our ongoing advocacy work, USGBC NJ was able to present testimony to this body of legislators to illustrate that sustainable buildings (LEED®, in specific) are more resilient-specifically in relation to storms such as Hurricane Sandy.

Congratulations again to all of the 2013 honorees. Their exceptional accomplishments raise the bar in achievement of high-performance, sustainable initiatives which improve quality of life, economics and environmental stewardship. And these qualities were embodied by ALL of the attendees at the event, not just the award winners. Our 11th Annual Gala was truly a celebration of the transformation of the practice of building from "business as usual", to practices of innovation and resiliency!



Left to right: Ed Walsh (USGBC NJ Board member & Gala MC); Florence Block (USGBC NJ ED); Rob Schmitt (USGBC NJ Board member and accepting the award for Hampshire Real Estate Companies)