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# MAY 2009

## **Building Healthy, Smart, Green and Cost Effective Buildings in New Jersey**

### **Introduction to the US Green Building Council and LEED®**

*The US Green Building Council (USGBC), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group formed in 1993 is a leading promoter of green or sustainable architecture. Its members are a coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. In 1998, USGBC created LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a voluntary green building rating system establishing national criteria for sustainable buildings. LEED® promotes several green-building initiatives, including integration of whole-building design, creating sustainable communities, facilitating green-building competitions, and increasing public awareness of green buildings as healthy places for human habitation and commerce.*

### **NJ Chapter of the USGBC**

*New Jersey's densely structured landscape presents unique opportunities and challenges in rejuvenating our urban communities and protecting open space. High performance buildings are a key and easily achievable ingredient to supporting statewide smart growth initiatives and sustainable development. To meet the growing demand for high performance design by our local industry and communities, the USGBC NJ Chapter provides networking, education and support of local initiatives by attending meetings and making presentations. More information on the NJ Chapter and its activities can be found on their webpage at [www.usgbcnj.org](http://www.usgbcnj.org). the chapter was founded in 2002.*

### **USGBC-NJ Chapter Mission**

*To be NJ's foremost coalition in the public and private sectors promoting the planning, design, construction, and operation/maintenance of buildings that are environmentally responsible, cost effective, productive, and healthy places to live, learn and work.*

### **USGBC-NJ Chapter Membership**

*Companies join national USGBC, individuals join local USGBC chapters. There are 3 annual chapter membership categories. Full member (employed by a USGBC member company). Associate member. Student/EGB. Details at [www.usgbcnj.org](http://www.usgbcnj.org)*

<b>Number of New Jersey chapter members:</b>	<b>868</b>
<b>Number of USGBC member Companies in NJ:</b>	<b>654+</b>
<b>Number of LEED Accredited Professionals in NJ:</b>	<b>2169</b>
<b>Number of LEED registered projects in NJ:</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Number of LEED certified projects in NJ:</b>	<b>52</b>

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