



USGBC-NJ NEWS

For Immediate Release

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USGBC-NJ Welcomes New Executive Director

Trenton, NJ – New Jersey’s chapter of the US Green Building Council announces the appointment of Florence Block to the newly created position of Executive Director.

Ms. Block served as the President of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce, the 11th largest Chamber of Commerce in New Jersey with membership of over 700 companies and organizations representing over 150,000 employees. Before January 2006, she was in the forefront of NJ corporate real estate management and office planning industries for over 25 years, most recently serving as Senior Vice President of Project Management for the Trammell Crow Company – a national real estate development firm based in Dallas, Texas.

Ms. Block’s credits include the founding of New Jersey regional architectural offices for two national firms based in California – Interior Architects LLC and Space LLC, with clients including AT&T, AVAYA, Prudential Financial, Bristol Myers Squibb, Staples and Morgan Stanley. Prior to that, she was part of AT&T’s Real Estate planning team.

Ms. Block founded, and now serves as board president, to the Somerset Hills Learning Institute, a private school for autistic disabled children located in Bedminster, NJ. In addition to the Somerset Hills Learning Institute, Ms. Block served on the boards of the Morris County Visitor Center, Morris County Economic Development Corporation, InSitech Co., and on the advisory board of Fairleigh Dickenson’s Silberman School of Business, and FDU’s Institute of Sustainable Enterprise.

A graduate of The American University with a BA in Art and Design, Florence has lived in Basking Ridge, NJ for over 10 years. She has three children; Karen, a graduate of SUNY College, Purchase, NY, Jared, a freshman at Rutgers, and Steven, a student at the Somerset Hills Learning Institute.

“The Garden State is on the cutting-edge of green building policy and practices and New Jersey’s Chapter of the US Green Building Council is proud to be working with the leaders of business, communities and government policy makers to make New Jersey a more sustainable state,” said Mr. Topinka, USGBC-NJ chair.

“The chapter has grown tremendously since its inception in 2002. We now have more than 650 member companies in New Jersey and more than 770 chapter members. There are more than 1060 LEED accredited professionals and 347 LEED-registered projects in NJ. In response to the expanding membership and the increased demand for USGBC-NJ services, we are delighted to welcome Florence to our organization. We are certainly fortunate to have someone with Florence’s wealth of experience serve as our executive director,” Mr. Topinka said.

Ms. Block will be introduced to USGBC-NJ members at the annual holiday celebration, to be held 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, at the Salt Creek Grill in Princeton.

USGBC is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group formed in 1993. The New Jersey chapter was formed in 2002 and created three branch committees to serve North, South and Central New Jersey in 2008.

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), is a voluntary green building rating system establishing national criteria for sustainable buildings. There are LEED projects in all 50 states and 41 countries. LEED addresses all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core and shell, operations and maintenance, homes, neighborhoods and specific applications such as retail, college campuses, schools, healthcare facilities, laboratories and lodging.

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