

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **THE US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL-NEW JERSEY ANNOUNCES MAJOR GREEN JOBS TRAINING INITIATIVE WITH STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT**

(Morristown, NJ) – In an effort to help workers better compete in a difficult economic climate, US Green Building Council–New Jersey (USGBC-NJ) Executive Director Florence Block recently announced the creation of a bold new partnership with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) to provide **FREE** customized “Green Jobs” training to its members.

The training will center around the field of Green Building to help USGBC-NJ members align themselves with the ever-changing demands on workforce skill. The new trainings will focus in large part on LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) test preparation enabling members to obtain accreditation that will enable them to compete for the proliferation of green oriented work that is on the horizon.

“We are so pleased to be able to offer such a timely and necessary service to our members,” said Block. “Providing this valuable education opportunity to our members is going to increase the marketability of the companies that they work for to compete effectively and acquire a greater percentage of the jobs created under the State’s Energy Master Plan.”

Block said the customized educational programs will be made available at no cost to USGBC-NJ individual members. The customized trainings will be conducted onsite at an employer’s office or in one of the designated USGBC-NJ training facilities. For information on how to prequalify for the training and to join USGBC-NJ if not already a member, please visit [www.usgbcnj.org](http://www.usgbcnj.org) and click on *Education* Tab.

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The two part program will include LEED® Training which includes LEED® Green Associate recommended modules. The first part of the training will include the LEED® Green Building Basics. The second part of the training will include a variety of customized training programs for multiple disciplines also inclusive of LEED® Technical Review and Exam Review.

LEED® Green Associates accreditation is for professionals who want to demonstrate green building expertise in non-technical fields of practice, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) recently created the LEED® Green Associate credential, which denotes basic knowledge of green design, construction, and operations and overall building high performance.

“Employers with a LEED® Green Associate and Accredited Professional-trained workforce will be better equipped to compete in a green competitive economy and employ workers in New Jersey to meet the growing demand for skilled workers to weatherize buildings, construct sustainable facilities that reduce energy consumption and manufacture energy saving building products.” In addition to the LEED® Green Associates credential, the coursework will also cover the full spectrum of LEED® Accredited Professional categories as required by the consortium participants.

USGBC LEED® faculty is trained at USGBC Headquarters in Washington and undergoes extensive auditing and a background requirement of having played key roles on multiple LEED® projects. USGBC NJ faculty consists of LEED® Accredited Professionals who will be instructing the coursework that complements the LEED® Workshop training that will be customized for multiple sectors.

Block said that even before partnering with LWD, USGBC-NJ has been providing premier quality educational programs on green design, construction, and operations for professionals from all sectors of New Jersey’s building industry. She added that thousands of designers, builders, suppliers, and managers have attended USGBC educational programs to gain practical knowledge, explore new business opportunities, and learn how to create healthier, more productive and more efficient places to live and work.

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Credentialing is world renown with over 2,000 accredited professional in NJ and close to 100,000 LEED® Professionals Globally in 50 states and 41 countries. The number of projects that require LEED® accredited professionals involved in building projects is growing exponentially to ascertain credible levels of expertise.

All professions have recognized the value of LEED® accreditation in the work place.

In addition to architects, engineers, building professionals and interior designers, virtually all other business sectors are seeking LEED® accreditation across a vast array of industries. “An obvious but additional, invaluable benefit of offering the training is that the State’s business population would also become infused with a culture practicing and promoting energy and environmental sustainability while positively impacting our economy,” said Block. “Studies show that productivity, health and quality of life are enhanced through practice and living a philosophy of sustainability and working/living in Green Buildings.”

USGBC is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit group formed in 1993. New Jersey membership exceeds 1400 Corporations inclusive of USGBC National and the USGBC New Jersey Chapter. There are over 2000 LEED® Accredited Professionals in NJ 60 LEED certified projects, and 438 LEED® registered projects in New Jersey.

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