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## Green Business Center Receives Platinum Award



The Leadership in Environment and Energy Design Platinum award winning Green Business Center in Hyderabad, India.

In November 2003, the U.S. Green Business Council awarded the Green Business Center (GBC) building in Hyderabad, India its Leadership in Environment and Energy Design (LEED) 2.0 Platinum award. LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. The GBC is the first building in the world to receive the Platinum LEED award, making it the most environmentally advanced building in the world.

The Green Business Center idea was conceived by USAID and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and codified in a joint memorandum between the U.S. and Indian governments during the Presidential visit to India in March 2000. A model clean energy/environmental center was envisioned to promote development of cleaner energy and environmental projects. In order to give shape and substance to the idea, USAID worked with the CII to develop a detailed concept and business plan for the new center. Along with a group of experts from CII, USAID and the Andhra Pradesh government, the contractor led a "design tour" of leading energy and environmental centers across the United States in the winter of 2000.

This effort culminated in a plan for a center that would use market forces and business solutions to address energy, water and environmental problems. It also produced the initial design concepts for a green building to house the GBC.

The concept and plan were presented to the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh in early 2001. The Chief Minister recognized that green business was not only good for the environment but also a growth industry that could create jobs and economic growth in the state, much as his efforts in the IT sector have done. The Chief Minister offered to be a partner with USAID and the CII, and donated five acres of land in the heart of the IT area for the GBC building and another 1,000 acres for a Green Industrial Park. With this level of commitment from the state government, CII approached its members and received a large donation sufficient to design and build a state-of-the-art "green" building for the center.

Building on its broad-based public and private support, the CII-GBC has also sought to expand its programmatic reach through the application of a USAID Global Development Alliance (GDA) Award. In March of 2003, the CII-GBC received a \$1.3 million, 3-year GDA matching grant award from USAID. USAID retained the services of a contractor to provide expert assistance to CII-GBC to develop detailed program plans for each major area, including green buildings, green business incubation, and water/energy.

Construction of the GBC building was completed in December 2003. It is expected to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister by the end of 2004. GBC has a broad suite of cutting edge programs, tremendous public and private support, and a talented and enthusiastic staff. Seeing the success of the program to date, CII is now consolidating its energy and environmental implementation programs into the CII-GBC and

has transferred over 40 of its professional staff from all over India to staff positions at the Hyderabad center. The center is rapidly becoming a major center of excellence for CII, Andhra Pradesh and the country in developing business solutions to energy and environmental problems.

Starting the year 2004, the CII-GBC will have a new building, a broad suite of cutting edge programs, tremendous public and private support,

and a talented and enthusiastic staff. Seeing the success of the program to date, CII is now consolidating its energy and environmental implementation programs into the CII-GBC. The center is rapidly becoming a major center of excellence for CII, Andhra Pradesh and the country in developing business solutions to energy and environmental problems. For further information, visit the green business center website at [www.ciigbc.org](http://www.ciigbc.org)

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