



Report to evaluate the current status and potential for green building in North America

Commercial and residential buildings have huge environmental impacts. It is estimated that, in the United States alone, commercial and residential buildings consume some 65 percent of all electricity generated, 12 percent of fresh water supplies and 40 percent of all raw materials, as well as contributing about one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions.

Positive effects of green building practices include sustainable use of energy, materials, and water, along with lower resource and waste disposal costs, as well as increased comfort and well-being for occupants. Buildings designed in an environmentally conscious manner represent an important opportunity to accrue environmental benefits for generations.



Parque Insurgentes

Despite these environmental and economic benefits, green building represents only a small fraction of the new construction in North America.

To examine the status and opportunities for green building in North America, as well as some of the drivers and barriers to its development, the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is developing a report, on the subject for presentation to the CEC Council, and for the public.

THE REPORT

This report will examine the current status of, and future prospects for, green buildings in North America. It will highlight the potential for environmental benefits, examine factors behind notable successes and difficulties, and outline public and private measures for fostering the adaptation of green building practices. It will also contain specific recommendations from the Secretariat to the CEC Council—the top environment officials from Canada, Mexico and the United States—on the issues raised in the report.

To assist in the development of the report, the Secretariat has convened an international advisory group with broad expertise relevant to the entire spectrum of green building. Members include prominent developers and

architects, sustainable energy experts, real estate appraisers and brokers, together with local and national government representatives.

THE PROCESS

The process for developing this report will include:

- Development and circulation of various background papers for public comment;
- Consultation with stakeholders and the public in each of our three countries, including a public symposium at which the issues are given further scrutiny;
- Submission of the Secretariat's report, including the advisory group's advice on recommendations, to Council; and
- Public release of the final report, unless the Council decides otherwise. →

ADVISORY GROUP

The advisory group members are:

CANADA

Jonathan Westeinde (Chair) – *Windmill Development Group*
Anne Auger – *Office of Energy Efficiency at Natural Resources Canada*
Peter Busby – *Busby Perkins + Will*
Benoit Labonté – *Borough of Ville-Marie, Montreal*
Roger Peters – *Pembina Institute*

MEXICO

Guillermo Casar Marcos – *Ingenieros Civiles Asociados*
David Morillón – *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*
Evangalina Hirata Nagasako – *National Housing Commission of Mexico (Conavi)*
Juan C. Mata Sandoval – *Secretaría de Energía*
José Picciotto – *Picciotto Architects*
César Ulises Treviño – *Consejo Mexicano de Edificación Sustentable (Mexico Green Building Council)*

UNITED STATES

Bob Berkebile – *BNIM Architects*
Karen Cook – *EECOM*
Donald R. Horn – *Office of Applied Science at the US General Services Administration's Public Buildings Service*
Susan L. MacLaurin – *GWL Realty Advisors*
Scott Muldavin – *The Muldavin Company, Inc.*
Diane Sugimura – *Department of Planning and Development, Seattle*
Robert Watson – *ECOTECH*

INTERNATIONAL / CEC

Patricia Clarey – *Health Net of California and member of the CEC Joint Public Advisory Committee*
Kaarin Taipale – *Helsinki School of Economics' Center for Knowledge and Innovation Research*



Plaza Arquimedes

Corporativo Insurgentes

PUBLIC EVENTS

The CEC Secretariat hosted a public workshop in Mexico in February 2007, followed by an international symposium in Seattle in May in which featured presentations by the authors of the background papers and advisory group members. Members of the public and interested stakeholders participated in an open forum, provided input into the project and sharing their opinions on the issues raised in the background papers.

For more information about these workshops, please contact Tim Whitehouse at twhitehouse@cec.org or at 514-350-4334.

CEC

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is an international organization created in a side agreement to NAFTA by the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

