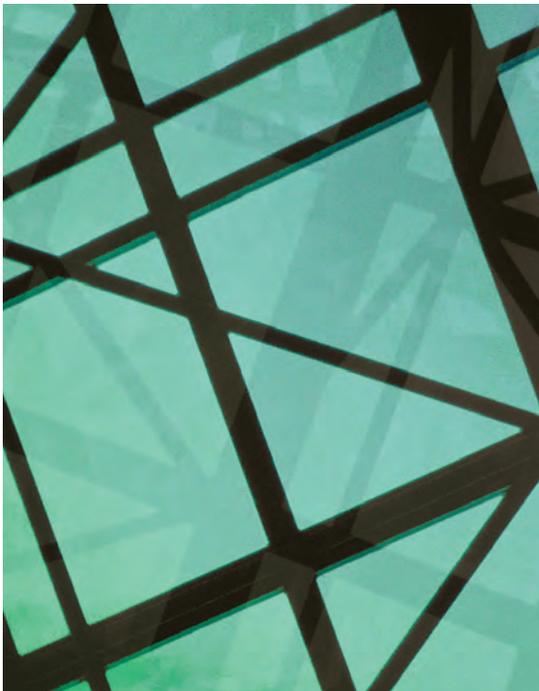




Sustainable Buildings Industry Council



A sustainable building is one in which the site, design, construction, occupancy, maintenance and deconstruction of the building are accounted for in ways that promote energy, water and material efficiencies, while providing healthy, productive and comfortable indoor environments and long-term benefits to owners, occupants and society as a whole. The Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC) focuses on achieving high-performance buildings through the efficient use of energy and resources.

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SBIC works to unite and inspire the building industry toward higher performance—through education, outreach, advocacy and the mutual exchange of ideas—and to dramatically improve the long-term performance and value of buildings by advancing a whole building approach to design, construction and operation.

In addition to promoting sustainable design and construction strategies, the Council maintains an overarching philosophy that sustainability, while an essential element of a building's performance, cannot stand alone. Communities and individual building owners and building occupants place numerous expectations on buildings, from disaster resistance to the increased need for accessibility and security in the face of a changing population and global environment. An inclusive, integrated perspective, called *Beyond Green™*, is required. Understanding and applying a whole building approach, from design through occupancy, not only makes sense, it results in high-performance buildings that address the numerous expectations placed on buildings.

Through publications such as the *Green Building Guidelines: Meeting the Demand for Low-Energy, Resource-Efficient Homes; the High-Performance School Buildings Resource and Strategy Guide*; and the *Beyond Green™ High-Performance Building Awards*, SBIC highlights the concepts of high performance and whole building design established by the U.S. Congress and described within WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® (the largest online resource of buildings-related information in the world).

The awards recognize initiatives that shape, inform and catalyze the high-performance building market, as well as the real-world application of high-performance construction practices. The awards program is open to all and offers three entry categories: 1. High-Performance Buildings, 2. High-Performance Initiatives and 3. High-Performance Products.

The Council focuses on supporting research and development; the dissemination of information, education and training; information exchange; publishing guidance; and conducting forums and workshops to fulfill its mission. This is accomplished through the development or recommendation of standards, guidelines and conformity assessment programs; stimulating innovation in government and within the sectors of the economy; and promoting increased understanding and communications among architects, engineers, contractors, owners; insurance, banking, investment, appraisal companies; voluntary standards organizations; government agencies; and other sectors of the economy.

SBIC members and partners share the common goal of delivering buildings that provide long-term value and performance, reduce operating costs, keep occupants safe, comfortable and healthy and protect the natural environment.

SBIC membership is open to organizations, trade associations, companies and individuals. Many of the original founding members have supported the work of the Council for more than 25 years. Non-profit organizations, architects, engineers, home builders, utilities, consultants, product and material manufacturers, suppliers, universities, professors, students, other building-related professionals and interested individuals all participate in the Council's mission. ■

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