



## The Institute At-A-Glance

The National Institute of Building Sciences accomplishes its mission to serve the nation and public interest through the following councils and programs that work to support advances in building sciences and technology:

### Industry Leadership and Advocacy

**Consultative Council** – The Consultative Council advises the Institute by making findings and recommendations for presentation to the President of the United States on developing and applying science and technology to improve the built environment. Members of the Council include the key organizations representing major aspects of the building community.

**Coordinating Council** – The Coordinating Council coordinates efforts among the different Institute programs and identifies areas of mutual interest to improve synergy and facilitate outcomes that are more productive and valuable to the building community.

**Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council (CWCC)** – The National Institute of Building Sciences and the U.S. Department of Energy are working to develop voluntary national guidelines, known as the Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines, to improve the quality and consistency of commercial building workforce credentials. The Institute established the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council in 2013 to lead development of those guidelines.

**Council on Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (CFIRE)** – CFIRE brings together building industry representatives that play a significant role in how buildings are procured, designed and constructed. Council participants include architects, engineers, contractors and owners; insurance representatives (including professional, property, casualty, environmental and surety); banking representatives (including construction and permanent); investment representatives (including real estate investment trusts, pensions and others); appraisal representatives; and testing and validation representatives. The Council works to promote collaboration and buy-in across these sectors and address the challenges of evaluating risks, benefits, technologies and practices associated with the achievement of cost-effective high-performance buildings.

**National Council of Governments on Building Codes and Standards (NCGBCS)** – NCGBCS brings together state, local and regional code agencies to work together to improve processes for handling building permits, inspections, energy codes, accessibility requirements and other codes and standards. NCGBCS provides a forum for addressing long-term policy issues, developing common education and training programs, researching codes and standards provisions and establishing a single point of engagement to communicate with federal agencies. This council serves as the reincarnation of the National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards (NCSBCS) for a wider, more inclusive audience.

**Off-Site Construction Council (OSCC)** – “Off-site construction” is the planning, design, fabrication and assembly of building elements at a location other than their final installed location to support the rapid and efficient construction of a permanent structure. In 2013, the National Institute of Building Sciences established the Off-Site Construction Council (OSCC) to serve as a research, education and outreach center for relevant and current information on off-site design and construction for commercial, institutional and multifamily facilities.

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Education Program** – Assuring the workforce of the future is capable of designing, constructing, operating and regulating high-performance buildings is an industry-wide challenge. To address this concern, in late 2011, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) teamed up with the Total Learning Research Institute (TLRI) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to establish a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education program aimed at attracting students to building science-related careers. In the years since, the STEM project team has recruited the help of leading industry organizations to develop an engaging educational program geared to high school and college students.



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### Facility Performance and Sustainability Programs

**Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council (BETEC)** – BETEC fosters public/private cooperation for environmental quality and energy efficiency in buildings. BETEC-developed publications such as the Building Envelope Design Guide are available on the WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® web portal at [www.wbdg.org](http://www.wbdg.org). Through a cooperative agreement with the American Institute of Architects, BETEC has formed and organized Building Enclosure Councils in numerous U.S. cities.

**High Performance Buildings Council (HPBC)** – HPBC's overall goal is to put standards in place to define what a high-performance building is in order to facilitate the design, construction, financing and operation of buildings, with an emphasis on life-cycle issues rather than initial costs. The HPBC identifies the metrics and level of required performance for specific design objectives (energy, security, durability, moisture, acoustics, etc.) for building products, subsystems and systems; and references industry standards for validating these performance requirements.

**Low Vision Design Committee (LVDC)** – LVDC focuses on development of design principles and regulatory guidelines for creating safer and more accommodating environments for the growing population of people with low vision. LVDC emphasizes collaborative efforts among federal agencies, the design professions and the medical community.

### Security and Disaster Preparedness Programs

**Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC)** – BSSC works to enhance public safety by improving earthquake-resistant design and construction throughout the United States. Consisting of numerous volunteer subject matter experts and more than 50 member organizations (MOs), BSSC represents a wide variety of building community interests related to seismic safety. The Council develops seismic safety provisions; promotes their adoption in voluntary standards and model codes; and develops training and educational courses and materials for use by members of the building community and the public.

### Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC)

– The SBIC focuses on achieving high-performance buildings through the efficient use of energy and resources. 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.

### Building Enclosure Council (BEC) National –

BEC facilitates a network of affiliated architects, engineers, contractors, manufacturers and others located in major cities across the United States. The local Councils provide a forum for the construction industry to address building enclosures that play such a critical role in building performance and energy efficiency. BEC was established as an initiative of the National Institute of Building Sciences Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council (BETEC) and the American Institute of Architects.

### National Mechanical Insulation Committee (NMIC) –

The Institute formed the NMIC to provide a forum for the improvement of information on the performance, use, testing and standardization of mechanical insulation in buildings and industrial facilities. The committee developed the Mechanical Insulation Design Guide (MIDG), which is available on the WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® web portal.

### Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) –

Hazard mitigation only works when implemented, yet there are a number of real-world barriers to implementing disaster resilience in the United States. In large part, the mission of the MMC is to identify how to reduce or eliminate those barriers while developing the best possible mitigation strategies, measures and policies. With its membership of experts from a multitude of fields, the MMC is addressing the challenges. The Council promotes collaboration—among homeowners, commercial and industrial property owners, researchers, the public sector and many others—to achieve resilience objectives, and is striving to become a focal point of credible information to inform decision making in ways that lead to effective public policy.



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### Information Resources and Technologies Programs

**buildingSMART alliance®** – This council provides industry-wide, public and private leadership and support for the development, standardization and integration of building information modeling (BIM) technologies to provide for full automation of the entire life cycle of buildings. The Alliance, in association with the American Institute of Architects and the Construction Specifications Institute, develops and publishes the consensus-based *United States National CAD Standard®*. The Alliance also sustains the consensus-based *National BIM Standard – United States®*. The Alliance coordinates projects establishing best business practices, enterprise architecture, education transformation, research and development throughout the industry.

**WBDG Whole Building Design Guide®** – WBDG is a comprehensive, Internet-based portal to a wide range of federal- and private-sector building-related guidance criteria and technology. It creatively links information across traditional professional disciplines to encourage integrated thinking and “whole building” performance. Users can access WBDG information through a series of “levels” by way of three major categories: 1) Design Guidance (including Design Objectives, Design Disciplines, Products & Systems, Building Types and Space Types); 2) Project Management (including Delivery Teams, Building Commissioning and Risk Management); and 3) Operation and Maintenance (including Real Property Inventory, Computerized Maintenance Management Systems and the Comprehensive Facility Operation & Maintenance Manual). The WBDG includes a comprehensive library of over 12,000 design criteria, other construction documents and executable programs from federal and private organizations.

**Building Resource Information Knowledgebase (BRIK)** – The National Institute of Building Sciences and the American Institute of Architects collaborate on the development of BRIK, an interactive portal offering online access to peer-reviewed research projects and case studies in all facets of building, from predesign through occupancy and reuse.

**ProjNet<sup>SM</sup>** – Project extranet (ProjNet<sup>SM</sup>) is an internet-based service that allows the secure exchange and processing of design and construction information among authorized business partners. ProjNet<sup>SM</sup> offers a suite of tools to manage owner-related business processes, including design reviews, bidder inquiry, requests for information and construction submittal reviews. ProjNet<sup>SM</sup> facilitates the formal oversight, control, review, management and secure exchange of complex project documents among and between all project stakeholders.

### Facility Maintenance and Operations

**Committee (FMOC)** – The FMOC works within the industry to improve the performance and longevity of buildings and building systems through consistent, effective and proper facility maintenance and operation. The committee provides industry-wide, public and private support for the creation of high-quality facilities. It promotes the sharing and integration of procedures and disseminates best practices. FMOC also actively provides feedback on a number of Institute programs and interacts with outside agencies to improve facility maintenance.



## The Institute At-A-Glance

### Board of Directors

The Institute Board of Directors is comprised of 21 members. The President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints six members to represent the public interest. The remaining 15 members are elected from the nation's building community and include both public interest representatives and industry voices. A majority of Board members are required by the authorizing legislation to be in the public interest category.

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Updated 03/2016