

# The North American Coalition on

# GREEN BUILDING

## COALITION MEMBERS

APA-The Engineered Wood Association  
Adhesive and Sealant Council  
The American Architectural Manufacturers Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Forest Foundation/American Tree Farm System  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Institute of Timber Construction  
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.  
Architectural Woodwork Institute  
Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Suppliers  
Canadian Lumbermen's Association  
Canadian Kitchen Cabinet Association  
Canadian Plastics Industry Association  
Canadian Wood Council  
Composite Panel Association  
Forest Products Association of Canada  
Formaldehyde Council, Inc  
General Electric Company  
The Hardwood Federation  
Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association  
International Wood Products Association  
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association  
National Hardwood Lumber Association  
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association  
National Paint & Coatings Association  
North American Wholesale Lumber Association  
Ontario Wood Products Export Association  
Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association  
Quebec Wood Export Bureau  
Resilient Floor Covering Institute  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Southern Pine Council  
The Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance  
TECO  
Treated Wood Council  
Vinyl Council of Canada  
Vinyl Institute  
Window and Door Manufacturers Association

The North American Coalition on Green Building is 38 organizations with a strong interest in green building that, though competitors, work together in support of scientifically justified systems and standards to help us reach the common goal of making our built environment more sustainable.

We believe in the power of competition to foster innovation and improvements in green building rating systems that will benefit the green building community, and, more importantly, the environment. When the Coalition was formed, the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)™ rating system was the predominant green building rating system. However, since it was launched in 2004, the Green Building Initiative's (GBI) Green Globes™ system has promoted improved green building rating systems in the areas of consensus-based standards, life cycle assessment, utilization of on-line interactive tools, and energy efficiency. This has prompted USGBC to improve LEED, which, in turn, has led GBI to improve Green Globes. On the residential side, there also is competition, with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) having developed its NAHB Model Green Home Building Guidelines in 2006, which was followed by the launch of USGBC's LEED for Homes.

### **Green Building Rating Standards Should be Developed Through an Accredited Standards Developer (ASD):**

The Coalition urges that green building standards be developed using a nationally-recognized, voluntary, and consensus-based process. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the coordinator of the U.S. standards process, provides strict requirements for accreditation of those processes for organizations wishing to become an Accredited Standards Developer (ASD). The NAHB National Green Building Standard recently became the first-ever ANSI-recognized green building rating system. Development of Green Globes as an ANSI American National Standard will be completed in late 2009. Approximately one year after GBI became an ASD, USGBC also achieved recognition but it has not developed existing editions of LEED through their ANSI-accredited process. USGBC is only using ANSI-approved processes to develop a single LEED standard, LEED for Neighborhoods.

### **Green Building Rating Systems Should be Based on Objective Scientific Criteria, Including Consideration of Life Cycle Impacts:**

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is an objective process of measuring the environmental impact of a building material from "cradle to grave." Green Globes has always incorporated aspects of LCA. Green Globes' developer, GBI, has also authorized a version of its LCA Credit Calculator, a software tool that provides LCA results on approximately 400 common building assemblies, to be made available free of charge to other rating systems and the entire sustainable design and construction community. USGBC is developing a similar calculator for incorporating LCA into LEED.

### **Conclusion:**

Whether in building materials, advanced technology, or intellectual property, competition spurs innovation and improvement for the benefit of the marketplace. Similarly, all users, and more importantly, the environment, have benefited from the healthy competition in green building rating systems. Governments should not preempt that competition by relying solely on the USGBC's LEED rating system as a means to ensure green building, but instead, governments should promote policies that recognize multiple, credible systems. The North American Coalition on Green Building stands ready to work with all parties to help achieve that goal.

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