



TEXAS Our Narrative of Priorities

The U.S. Green Building Council Texas Chapter (USGBC Texas) is a community-benefit 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to ensuring a better built environment for current and future generations of Texans. We are uniquely focused on uniting all stakeholders involved in the development, design, construction, operation and use of the built environment to achieve equitable practices and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable.

Our Mission: *Transform the way buildings, homes and communities are designed, built, maintained and operated in Texas through outreach, education, advocacy and partnerships, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life in Texas.*

The Texas Chapter's focus goes beyond individual buildings to sustainability more broadly, including water conservation and protection, land use planning and conservation, multimodal transportation and urban redevelopment. At the USGBC, we work with government, member businesses, and allied organizations to support policies and programs that **advance greener buildings to ensure a better future for all Texans.**

USGBC Texas has **five broad Advocacy priorities:**



Government Leadership by Example

We assert green building as a priority in Texas and make inroad relationships with legislators

- Each session we host Texas State Advocacy Day at the Capitol, where our volunteer advocates have a chance to promote green building policy and ideas.
- Past activities: Green Building Resolution (HR 1617) in the 83rd Legislative Session



Private Sector Market Transformation

We highlight green building as a driving force for smart development in the private sector

- Past activities: support of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) statute during in the 83rd Legislative Session and ongoing support of the Texas PACE program



Raising the Bar on Codes and Regulations for better health & wellness

Local adoption of green building codes is beneficial for both businesses and the environment and Texas should set the standard for the adoption of sustainable development practices

- Past activities: during the 84th Legislative Session, the statewide adoption of the IECC 2015 code was allowed with HB 1736 and took effect in 2017



Community-wide, Sustainability, Resilience & Equity

Promote community-wide sustainability including advocacy work and education at state and local levels, providing advocacy support for local sustainability plans

- We continue our efforts with the Urban Affairs Committee to promote sustainable/resilient development in Texas including in hurricane-ravaged areas
- Along with supporting LEED for Communities and Cities, we support San Antonio's SA Tomorrow plan and Resilient City efforts in urban areas such as Dallas, Houston, Austin and El Paso as well as rural areas in-between.



Green Schools

Communicate the benefits of green schools to local school districts through our members and with the **Green Schools Caucus** to emphasize the 3 pillars of a green school:

1. *Reduced environmental impacts and costs*
2. *Improved occupant health and wellness*
3. *Effective STEM, environmental and sustainability education*