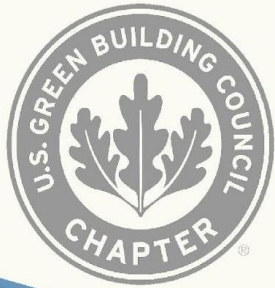


USGBC TEXAS CHAPTER



TEXAS



Our Mission:

To accelerate the adoption of green building and sustainable development practices in Texas.

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Jonathan Kraatz speaking about LEED to students at SMU

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TEXAS

Green Apple Day of Service

In line with initiatives around Earth Month, the USGBC Texas Green Schools Committee is currently seeking donations and volunteers for our Picnic Table Building day of service for Central Texas school districts.

Outdoor spaces have been shown to have a net positive effect on student's health and educational developmental processes. As we (hopefully) exit from two years of educational upheaval, one of the pandemic related protocols we would like to see expand is the utilization of outdoor spaces for both learning and lunch.

We are calling on our community and corporate partners to assist with this effort. Whether it is a monetary or an in-kind volunteer donation, please consider contributing to our Picnic Table Building day of service. We plan to partner with local school campuses for this first project and build approximately 30 outdoor dining tables (estimated cost = \$5,000). If we are able to raise more money, and get more volunteers, we would provide more tables and cater to more schools.

The USGBC Texas Green Schools Committee will work with your PR and marketing teams to make sure this effort is promoted and does not go unnoticed. As soon as we have enough donations, we will be reaching out again for a volunteer build day in early May. Stay tuned and till then help us reach our funding goals!

For questions on this project email green_schools@usgbctexas.org. More info here: <https://www.usgbctexas.org/GreenAppleProjects>



Earth Day Activities

There will be various events and activities happening in the month of April to celebrate Earth Day! Stay in touch with USGBC Texas to find out more: <https://www.usgbctexas.org/events>.

One of the biggest Earth Day events comes back this year to Dallas - Earthx! <https://earthx.org/>



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The Central Region of USGBC-Texas is also participating in two Earth Day events April 23-24. Check the Events page for details.



Best Practice Champions

All Texas Climate Action Plans (Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, Austin, and El Paso) include some version of voluntary and/or mandatory recording and reporting (benchmarking) of commercial and multifamily energy and/or water consumption. Understanding why these policies are important and add value to our buildings, communities, and businesses has just gotten easier as “Benchmarking” is the latest proven best practice to be included in our USGBC Texas Best Practices app.

Our USGBC Texas Best Practices app lays out the full social (human, health, & business prosperity), environmental (pollution and carbon loading), and financial (utility bill savings) cost impacts that building and community tenant businesses and inhabitants must overcome due to poor performance. Developed in conjunction with our USGBC Texas Best Practice Champions, the app is designed to help professionals and laypersons alike understand, quantify, and convey dollar cost benefits of better and best design, construction, and operations alternatives and advance the business case advocacy that will provide an equitable and just future for all Texans.

Using the app, you can:

- Connect with Best Practice Champions across the state of Texas for expertise in green-building design, technology, sustainability strategies and more.
- Benchmark your project’s desired best practices impact against current lowest-first-cost minimum-code legacy thinking, and
- Learn how to lead with the business case for proven best practice advocacy.

Help expand the USGBC Texas Best Practices App!



Donate today!

Are you ready to advocate for consistently sustainable buildings and communities? Learn how to speak the business case through our Best Practices app and companion presentations. Now available in Android iOS; watch this space for future Mac and PC versions!

Upcoming webinar on April 21: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dLTF3miHREaHplw3pQgxKA

More info here: <https://www.usgbctexas.org/Champions>



TX SECO - PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments for Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO)

Last month, per the requirement inscribed in [HB 51](#), an Advisory Committee presented the “*Recommendation for a High-Performance Building Design Evaluation System*” report to the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), recommending the adoption of a high-performance building design evaluation system which provides state agencies and institutions of higher education the option to choose from one of the following evaluation systems:

1. 2018 International Green Construction Code
2. LEED BD+C
3. The BREEAM system; OR
4. Austin Energy Green Building Rating system

As written in the [February 18 edition](#) of the *Texas Register*, SECO is now accepting public comments on the recommendation until May 15, 2022. Comments may be submitted through SECO's electronic mail address at 2021CodeComments@cpa.texas.gov.

We encourage you to submit comments in support of the recommendation.

To make this process seamless, we have provided a sample email template below, which you can to customize with more information on why you believe high-performance buildings will benefit Texas.

Suggested Email Subject:

Support for Recommendation for a High-Performance Building Design Evaluation System

Suggested Email Body:

Dear SECO,

My name is XXX and I am a resident of CITY Texas. A requirement that state-owned buildings adhere to high-performance building standard means a more economical, environmental and socially sustainable Texas. To that end, I am writing to endorse the recommendation put forth by the High Performance Buildings Advisory Committee in the “Recommendation for a High-Performance Building Design Evaluation System” report released in February 2022. Third-party building certification systems are a proven tool for keeping building operators accountable, and I support the recommendation that state buildings and institutions of higher learning must choose between one of four listed building certification systems. I also recommend that you include a method to track implementation by state agencies, and to make that information public.

Thank you,

XXX

In Memoriam: Larry Graf

"Larry was a committed USGBC leader and supporter as long as I can recall, always willing to roll up his sleeves and help get whatever was needed done. He believed in what we were doing and was always stepped up, whether hands on or in a leadership capacity. He was always upbeat, energetic and kind. He will be sorely missed." – **Jane Baxter Lynn**

"USGBC Texas is so much richer for Larry's contributions over the years. His enthusiasm and positive outlook helped lift any challenge that we faced. I will truly miss his innovative ideas – even the ones that inevitably made more work for me." – **Jonathan Kraatz**



"Larry was so generously dedicated to the sustainability movement and was a very warm, kind, nice and inspiring human. What a huge loss for our community and his family." – **Mami Jade Evans**



"Larry welcomed me into this USGBC family with open arms. A five-minute conversation with him could produce more knowledge and ideas than an hour with many others. I am infinitely grateful for our funny rambling informative chats over these past three years. In getting to know him personally through the sale of his family home after his mother passed I had many opportunities to talk about life and death. He dearly loved his family and I know that he did absolutely everything to make a better place for his

loved ones and ours. His commitment to a better built world stems in large part from this love of family and also his unwavering ethos. His reach is far and wide. He will be missed." – **Keri Neff**



"Larry was such a kind, wonderful human. He cared very deeply and was committed to his family, his friends, his community and USGBC. He believed in the good in people and never strayed from his efforts to make this community and this world a better place. He connected so many ideas and people. Larry loved Kathi and Teri so fiercely and he was always positive – often lifting me up when I needed it most. His generous, patient spirit was like no other and he will be so deeply missed." – **Meredith Miller**

Upcoming Events

Register for upcoming events [here](#).

If you're interested in sponsoring an upcoming USGBC Texas event, please contact us Chapter@USGBCTexas.org

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<https://www.usgbctexas.org/Membership>

Want to be featured in the newsletter?
Send submissions and inquiries
to marketinginter@usgbctexas.org.

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1801 Royal Lane, Suite 400
Dallas, Texas 75229

