



wbcscd

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U.S. Green Building Council, UN Environment Programme and World Business Council for Sustainable Development Announce Partnership on Rio+20

"Road to Rio+20" effort will highlight regional innovation in green building and sustainable cities, in preparation for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012

Washington, DC (Sept. 22, 2011) – Using World Green Building Week 2011 as a platform, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) announced a new initiative today to highlight the important role of buildings and cities in the green economy.

Scheduled to launch in Toronto at the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo on Oct. 4-6, the "Road to Rio+20" initiative will engage private sector leaders, civil society and local government officials in highlighting examples of the green economy in action, with a focus on energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable cities. Events will take place in locations across North America throughout the coming year.

In June 2012, Rio de Janeiro will host the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, an event widely known as "Rio+20" as it marks as the 20th anniversary of the 1992 UN Earth Summit. The Road to Rio+20 effort will raise awareness of the Rio conference and discuss sector-based challenges and solutions related to buildings and cities in the broader context of shifting to a green economy—a central theme of the conference. While showcasing regional examples of innovation, the events will also facilitate discussion of positive governmental actions and concrete outcomes linked with Rio+20.

During a July speech hosted by the USGBC at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Sha Zukang spoke about the importance of the Rio+20 conference and highlighted key opportunities to make progress towards a sustainable future. Mr. Zukang called on the audience of high-ranking officials representing the Obama Administration, ambassadors from China and Brazil, major corporations, academia, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and civil society to show leadership in contributing to a successful conference.

"Rio+20 offers a unique opportunity to jumpstart progress toward green economies, not only at the global, regional and national levels, but at the city level as well" said Amy Fraenkel, director and regional

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representative of UNEP. "With more than half of the world's population now living in urban areas, UNEP's Regional Office for North America is excited to be working with the USGBC and the WBCSD to build momentum towards effective outcomes on sustainable cities and green buildings at this historic conference."

"The building sector, which makes up approximately 15 percent of annual U.S. GDP and accounts for over a third of greenhouse gas emissions, is a critical economic sector to examine in the lead up to Rio +20," said Roger Platt, senior vice president of global policy and law at USGBC. "Our goal is that this collaborative effort between USGBC and two global heavyweights in the field of sustainability will move the green economy debate forward locally and globally, and support efforts to make green cities and buildings pillars of sustainable economic development in all regions of the world."

"Rio+20 offers an opportunity for all sectors to collaborate on creating a green economy," said Christian Kornevall, director of the Energy Efficiency in Buildings Project at WBCSD. "Among other things, we're pushing for the uptake of energy efficiency in buildings and more sustainable cities as ideal vehicles, not only to reduce CO2 emission and increase energy savings, but also to stimulate job creation and economic growth."

To find out more and to see the Road to Rio +20 event schedule, please visit www.globealliance.org.

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About U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

The U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 79 local affiliates, nearly 16,000 member organizations, and more than 167,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. GDP from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org, on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading authority on the environment within the United Nations system. The Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA), based in Washington, D.C., works with Canadian and U.S. governments and stakeholders. UNEP RONA's mission is to build support in the region for UNEP's work, to promote effective responses to international environmental challenges and to foster cooperation on environmental issues between North America and the broader international community. To achieve this mission, UNEP RONA works to promote collaboration between UNEP and all sectors of North American society, including U.S. and Canadian governmental institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups.

About the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

The WBCSD is a CEO-led, global coalition of some 200 companies advocating for progress on sustainable development. Its mission is to be a catalyst for innovation and sustainable growth in a world where resources are increasingly limited. The Council provides a platform for companies to share experiences and best practices on sustainable development issues and advocate for their implementation, working with governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. The membership has annual revenues of USD 7 trillion, spans more than 35 countries and represents 20 major industrial sectors. The Council also benefits from a network of 60 national and regional business councils and partner organizations, a majority of which are based in developing countries. For more

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