

COG Green Building Report

Overview

Region's Environmental Conditions and Challenges

- Land and Habitat Impact - sprawl, tree loss, expansion of impervious surface
- Chesapeake Bay - stormwater runoff and water quality
- Air Quality - pollution, ground-level ozone, heat island effect
- Climate Change - global and regional
- Energy Security
- Human health

- --> turn into benefits

Local Government Impact

- Local (and state) governments carry burden of externalized building impacts
 - cost of response to sudden storm events and heat waves, power outages
 - long-term costs for stormwater management, infrastructure
 - Chesapeake Bay fines
 - resident health (and health costs)
 - absenteeism and lower productivity
 - instability of regional energy grid
 - wasted local tax dollars on inefficient buildings

Challenges --> Benefits

- Land and Habitat Impact - sprawl, tree loss, expansion of impervious surface
- Chesapeake Bay - stormwater runoff and water quality
- Air Quality - pollution, ground-level ozone, heat island effect
- Climate Change - global and regional
- Energy Security
- Human health

- Productivity improvement
- Cost savings

GB Opportunities

- Green businesses and green jobs

Standards

- LEED
- Green Globes
- ENERGY STAR

- EarthCraft
- Green Communities
- NAHB residential
- Regional residential programs

- 2030 Challenge

National Municipal Best Practices

- Seattle
- Portland, OR
- Chicago
- Austin

- GSA

Regional GB Activity

- Exemplary Projects
- Exemplary business development
- COG and COG member municipal programs

Operationalizing Green Building

- GB Costs and Benefits to local government
- Restructuring budgets to account for early green investments, lifecycle costs, and operational savings
- Adapt procurement practices
- Updating building codes
- Improving communications across agencies
- Building commissioning and performance tracking as standard practice
- Adopting green building management practices
- Education and staff capacity-building
- Supporting innovation

Regional Policy Goals

- Establish a widely understood and rigorous region-wide standard for green building
- Increase knowledge and capacity to implement green building throughout the region
- Make facilities developed and built by COG member jurisdictions models of best green building practice
- Promote and support green building innovation in the private sector through incentives, regulatory mechanisms, and information sharing
- Promote cross-sector collaboration that supports regional goals for green building, environmental conservation, climate protection, and the growth of a regional green economy

5 Key Recommendations

- LEED as preferred regional green building rating system - new commercial and high-rise residential
- LEED Silver for local government facilities
- COG Regional LEED Certified for private commercial and high-rise residential - regional priorities
- COG collaborates and partners to maximize opportunities in region
- COG 2008 Green Building Work Plan
- 13 additional recommendations

