



**USGBC South Florida**

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## News Release

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For Immediate Release

### **New Study: Green Building to Support Nearly 8 Million US Jobs Over Next Four Years**

Lake Worth, FL (November 12, 2009) -- Despite a challenging economic outlook, green building will support 7.9 million US jobs and pump \$554 billion into the American economy -- including \$396 billion in wages -- over the next four years (2009-2013), according to a new study from the U.S. Green Building Council and Booz Allen Hamilton. The study also determined that green construction spending currently supports more than 2 million American jobs and generates more than \$100 billion in gross domestic product and wages.

The economic impact of the total green construction market from 2000 to 2008, the study found, contributed \$178 billion to US gross domestic product; created or saved 2.4 million direct, indirect and induced jobs; and generated \$123 billion in wages.

The study also assessed the U.S. Green Building Council's 19,000-plus member organizations and found that they generate \$2.6 trillion in annual revenue, employ approximately 14 million people, come from 29 industry sectors and include 46 Fortune 100 companies.

The study was released at the USGBC's annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, the industry's largest gathering of representatives from all sectors of the green building movement.

"Our goal is for the phrase 'green building' to become obsolete, by making all building and retrofits green -- and transforming every job in our industry into a green job," said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chairman of the USGBC. "This study validates the work that the 25,000 people gathered here at Greenbuild, and every member of our movement, do every day."

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The study considered the total value of green buildings, and the results include innumerable workers -- from the architects who design them to the construction laborers who pour their foundations to the truck drivers who deliver the materials -- in recognition of the how extensive the impact of green building is.

"The study demonstrates that investing in green buildings contributes significantly to our nation's wealth while creating jobs in a range of occupations, from carpenters to cost estimators," said Gary Rahl, Officer, Global Government Market, for Booz Allen Hamilton. "In many ways, green construction is becoming the standard for development. As a result, it is expected to support nearly 8 million jobs over the next five years, a number four times higher than the previous five years."

The full report can be downloaded at [www.usgbc.org/greeneconomy](http://www.usgbc.org/greeneconomy), where one can also find other research, resources, tools and information about green building and its role in the economic recoveries of professionals, businesses and the nation.

"This report underscores what we here in the South Florida community have been advocating for years -- that the green revolution affects everyone everywhere," said Kyle Abney, president of the USGBC South Florida Chapter. "We know that green buildings can and will deliver on so many positive levels. Building homes and buildings that sustain and regenerate is -- thankfully for our children's future -- happening now, pumping jobs and dollars into our economy. This movement will result in an even healthier and more prosperous South Florida community in the future."

In support of the green building industry's potential to drive tremendous job growth, the USGBC has bolstered its commitment to education as a key component of its organizational mission toward a sustainable built environment. A new course catalog at [www.usgbc.org/courses](http://www.usgbc.org/courses) helps green building professionals find educational resources and training that support their learning needs at any level -- from novice to seasoned pro -- and in a variety of learning formats, including live, in-person workshops, live or on-demand online courses and webinars, study materials and reference guides, and other resources. Learn more at [www.usgbc.org/education](http://www.usgbc.org/education).

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Among the report's findings, the following economic impact of the total green construction market:

- Contribution to the US gross domestic product (GDP)
  - 2000-2008: \$173 billion
  - 2009-2013 forecast: \$554 billion
- Jobs created or saved (includes direct, indirect and induced jobs)
  - 2000-2008: 2.4 million
  - 2009-2013 forecast: 7.9 million
- Wages
  - 2000-2008: \$123 billion
  - 2009-2013 forecast: \$396 billion
- Energy savings
  - 2000-2008: \$1.3 billion saved
  - 2009-2013 forecast: \$6 billion saved

The economic impact of LEED-specific spending\*:

- Contribution to the US gross domestic product (GDP)
  - 2000-2008: \$830 million
  - 2009-2013 forecast: \$12.5 billion
- Jobs created or saved (includes direct, indirect and induced jobs)
  - 2000-2008: 15,000
  - 2009-2013 forecast: 230,000
- Wages
  - 2000-2008: \$703 million
  - 2009-2013 forecast: \$10.7 billion
- Energy savings
  - 2000-2008: \$281 million saved
  - 2009-2013 forecast: \$4.8 billion saved

\*These figures only account for LEED-specific spending, not the value of LEED-certified buildings as a whole.

USGBC's role in the marketplace:

- The U.S. Green Building Council's 19,000-plus member organizations generate \$2.6 trillion in annual revenue.
- USGBC members employ approximately 14 million people. USGBC members come from 29 industry sectors and include 46 Fortune 100 companies.

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***The US Green Building Council South Florida Chapter, a nonprofit (501[c][3]) organization, embraces the adoption of innovative building practices that conserve land, energy, water, resources and materials. Its mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life. Headquartered in the EcoCentre in Lake Worth, Florida, the Chapter's nearly 1,000 passionate members and volunteers provide programs and services to the South Florida community from its Broward, Miami-Dade and the Keys, and Treasure Coast and Palm Beach Branches. To learn more: Lee Cooke, Executive Director, 561-373-7367, lcooke@usgbcfsf.org, www.usgbcfsf.org.***