



National Institute of  
**BUILDING SCIENCES**

*An Authoritative Source of Innovative Solutions  
for the Built Environment*



**nbi** new buildings  
institute

REPRESENTATIVE HEARING ON:  
DATA NEEDS TO ACHIEVE HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

In Spring 2011, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced that the 2007 edition of the Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) would not be released due to statistical errors and that the 2011 edition is suspended due to lack of funding. Meanwhile, the building industry also needs building benchmark data on other high-performance building attributes, including safety and security, accessibility, cost effectiveness, water use, and indoor environmental quality. It has become apparent that metrics and the associated data must be developed and collected by the building community for the building community. In lieu of individual collection efforts for individual attributes, a collective approach will produce better data at a lower cost with the added benefit of built in interoperability.

To begin identifying the needed data and potential sources, the National Institute of Building Sciences has scheduled a hearing for **July 18, 2011** in Washington, D.C., to collect input from various sectors of the building community on data needs and existing data sources. Presiding over the hearing will be Gordon Holness, Past President, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); Ron Skaggs, Past President, American Institute of Architects (AIA); and Henry Green, National Institute of Building Sciences President. To facilitate a thorough discussion, sectors of the building community have been grouped into sessions. Actual session times will be determined by the level of interest in presenting at the hearing.

1. Building Owners/Facility Managers/Commissioning
2. Government (Policy/Regulatory/Voluntary)
3. Architects/Engineers/Contractors/Specifiers
4. Insurance & Finance
5. Codes & Standards/Rating Systems
6. Software Vendors and Manufacturers
7. Data Managers/Collectors/Reporters/Statisticians/Researchers
8. Other

The sessions will be open for anyone who wishes to attend. Speakers will need to submit intent to present in advance of the hearing. In addition to presentations, speakers and others are encouraged to provide written comments to the Institute. While such comments are preferred in advance of the hearing, the record will remain open for 15 days following the hearing. Guidelines and procedures for both speakers and written comments are identified in a separate document.

Following the hearing, the Institute will develop a report of data needs and potential mechanisms for obtaining such data. Additional information may be included based on input from the hearing and additional written comments.

Support for the hearing and resulting report is provided by *New Buildings Institute* and *National Environmental Balancing Bureau*.