

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor

Office of Communications



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, September 10, 2014

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District Passes 100 Million Square Feet of LEED Building Space

District Passes Elite 'Green' Building Threshold; Leads All States and Major Cities in Per Capita Certified Projects and Square Footage

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Today, Mayor Vincent C. Gray announced that the District has surpassed 100 million square feet of space certified as meeting LEED standards — a “green” building program developed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) in 1998. Only three other cities in the nation (each of them with much larger populations than the District’s) have passed this significant threshold — yet another sign that the nation’s capital is also a national leader in building with sustainability and environmental sensitivity in mind.

Only Chicago, New York and Houston have more total square footage of LEED-certified space than the District, and the District currently leads all U.S. cities in the total number of LEED projects. Per capita, the District has led all states and major cities in LEED-certified projects and square footage for several years. The District now has more than 155 square feet of LEED certified space per person — by far the highest of any large city.

“While we may not be one of the largest cities in the nation, we match and surpass the nation’s biggest metropolises in our commitment to green building,” said Mayor Gray. ***“The collaborative leadership on sustainable building across the District’s private sector, District agencies, and federal partners is truly outstanding. This is the type of innovation that will make the District the healthiest, greenest and most livable city in the nation.”***

The greening of the District’s buildings is crucial to the implementation of the groundbreaking [Sustainable DC Plan](#), which was released by Mayor Gray in February 2013 following 18 months of broad community input and planning. The [initiative](#) — to make the District the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the nation in one generation — focuses on creating jobs and economic opportunity, improving residents’ health and wellness, ensuring equity and diversity across the city, reducing climate change and protecting the District’s local environment. Success in green building is central to achieving Sustainable DC goals and actions across the built environment, energy, food, nature, transportation, waste and water.

Several District agencies have committed significant resources to design and build LEED-certified buildings across the city following passage of the Green Building Act of 2006. Together with the District’s building

industry and federal partners like the General Services Administration, building owners and managers have now achieved LEED certification for more than 500 projects across all building types.

“Mayor Gray and our forward-looking public- and private-sector partners share a common vision of the District as a national and world leader in green building,” said Keith Anderson, Director of the District Department of the Environment (DDOE). “Crossing the 100-million-square-foot threshold is proof that the District is growing a robust green marketplace where owners, developers, designers, tenants and our city as a whole all share the benefits of healthier, more efficient buildings.”

At the end of 2013, the District also had 66.8 million square feet in 208 ENERGY STAR™-certified buildings within the city limits. On a per-capita basis, the District leads the nation’s large cities in both LEED and ENERGY STAR™-certified projects and square footage.

Detailed information on LEED-certified projects in the District is available [on the DDOE website](#) and via the USGBC’s Green Building Information Gateway at www.gbig.org.

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Supplemental Quotes from Key Building Industry Partners

“The District’s commitment to green building serves as an example for cities around the U.S. and the world,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)**. “Green buildings add up to better, healthier, more enjoyable communities. DC is an extraordinary example of this idea in action.” **USGBC CONTACT:** Taryn Holowka 202.828.1144; tholowka@usgbc.org

“We are proud with how purposefully our **DC Building Industry Association (DCBIA)** members have embraced the Sustainable DC plan and LEED certification, resulting in this top ranking,” said Sean Cahill, Senior Vice President, Property Group Partners and President of DCBIA. “Our green-focused, public and private sector partnerships have transformed DC’s buildings and set the trajectory of the program put forth by the Gray Administration.” **DCBIA CONTACT:** Liz DeBarros 202.498.5862; edebarros@dcbia.org

“The extraordinary number of LEED-certified projects across our city underscores the dedication and commitment that **Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA) of Metropolitan Washington** members have made to sustainable building practices during the past decade. We are thrilled to be part of the solution on critical environmental issues,” said Shaun Pharr, AOBA Senior Vice President – Government Affairs. **AOBA CONTACT:** Marie Tibor 202.296.3390; mtibor@aoba-metro.org

“AIA|DC and our members are thrilled with the District’s embrace of green building and LEED standards,” said Mary Fitch, Executive Director of the **Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects**. “We’re incredibly proud that architects and allied professionals—along with enlightened clients—are helping DC lead the world in sustainable design.” **AIA|DC CONTACT:** Mary Fitch 202.347.9403; mfitc@aiadc.com

“This is a great accomplishment for the District and a testament to the commitment and leadership of our progressive local government and innovative construction, development, design, and property management community,” said Fulya Kocak, board chair of the **US Green Building Council - National Capital Region Chapter (USGBC-NCR)**. “We are proud that greening the built environment has become a cornerstone of the District's sustainability agenda and honored to be helping the District execute on those goals.” **USGBC-NCR CONTACT:** Emily English 202.742.3212; eenglish@usgbcncr.org