

P R E S S R E L E A S E
**The Connecticut Green Building Council Launches
High Performance Green School Initiative**

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For More Information

Bob Maddox, CT Green Building Council 203-266-7973

Bryan Garcia, CT Clean Energy 860-563-0015

Yesterday, the CT Green Building Council (CTGBC), with support from the Henry P. Kendall Foundation and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF), announced the launch of a High Performance Green School Initiative. This effort will bring together key organizations, decision-makers, and opinion leaders in the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors to discuss the need for high performance green schools in Connecticut.

Connecticut school buildings could be providing healthier, more productive educational settings, contributing to the academic improvement of students, reducing environmental impacts and costs, and opening opportunities for local community use – all the while saving money for taxpayers.

“Over the next 9 months the CTGBC will bring together Connecticut’s leaders to raise the awareness about the need for and importance of high performance green schools,” stated CTGBC President Bob Maddox. “As part of this effort we will engage a blue ribbon panel to explore the opportunities and barriers to designing and constructing quality schools in Connecticut.”

High performance green schools offer significant benefits that include healthier indoor environmental quality, improved student performance, increased teacher morale, and significant cost savings over the life of the school buildings. These schools are environmentally friendly – they incorporate high performance mechanical and lighting systems, environmentally responsive site planning, environmentally preferable materials and products, use water more efficiently, and they integrate energy conservation and clean energy strategies

”The CCEF is pleased to join the Kendall Foundation and the CTGBC in supporting this important project for the future of Connecticut’s schools,” stated Lise Dondy, COO of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. “The schools of the future should be powered by onsite clean energy systems in order to provide safe and secure energy resources while reducing the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.”

Maddox said that this initiative will be “instrumental in bringing high performance green schools to every community in Connecticut, buildings that are cost effective, healthy, and environmentally sound.”

The launch of the CTGBC’s High Performance Green School Initiative will begin today, February 28, 2005 at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin, CT starting at 1:00 p.m. Issues to be

discussed include an overview of high performance green schools – their opportunities and barriers, a presentation on what’s happening in other states, and a special guest speaker – Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy.

The Connecticut Green Building Council is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that seeks to improve the quality of life in Connecticut through the promotion of intelligently designed and constructed high performance energy efficient buildings.

Throughout the year the CTGBC conducts a series of workshops on green building topics, networking opportunities, membership meetings, educational forums, seminars on green buildings and periodic Connecticut-based LEED™ training in connection with the US Green Building Council. The CTGBC also monitors activities in Connecticut related to high performance green buildings and maintains a speaker’s bureau.

For more information on the CTGBC, please visit www.CTGBC.org

The CT Clean Energy Fund invests in programs and initiatives to support the creation of supply and demand for renewable sources in order to strengthen Connecticut’s economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for Connecticut.

The Fund, financed by a surcharge on ratepayers’ electric utility bills, is administered by Connecticut Innovations.

For more information on the CCEF, please visit www.ctcleanenergy.com

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What's Happening in Connecticut?

A Fact Sheet on High Performance Green Buildings in Connecticut

For centuries we have built buildings that honor and work with Connecticut's environment. Just look at many of the beautiful colonial houses that dot our landscape. Many are orientated south, aggressively utilize day lighting, have large center fire place chimneys, have giant maple or oaks that shade them in the summer, they all had operable windows to let fresh air in and they were mostly made with local materials.

In several ways, many of the proven techniques of our forefathers are at the forefront of green buildings today in Connecticut. What we've done is simply to build upon these time honored methods adding 21st century wisdom, design knowledge and improved technology to create beautiful spaces that also honor Connecticut's climate.

While there are currently very few buildings in Connecticut that have earned a LEED™ certification or have been built with a holistic green approach, many buildings in Connecticut are beginning to exhibit green traits. This is due to increased consumer knowledge and demand as well as the fact that green buildings are healthy spaces that are also less expensive to maintain. Things like orientating your building south, using day lighting and aggressive energy efficiency throughout, creating a super building shell, and even grass roofs are being incorporated into Connecticut buildings.

In April, the Mark Twain Museum Center became the first Connecticut LEED™ rated building. Here is a copy of the [Mark Twain Museum Center's LEED™ score card](#) showing the green features incorporated into the museum.

While not LEED™ certified, here are some other buildings in Connecticut that have utilized green design principals and techniques.

Governmental Action in Connecticut

During the last three sessions (2002-2004) of the Connecticut General Assembly various bills have been introduced that would require LEED™ certification or some similar standard for state funded building projects. While gaining wide spread support, these bills have yet to come up for a vote before either the House or Senate. Earlier this year, Senate President Don Williams introduced SB 923 , An Act Concerning Cost Savings Through Adoption of High Performance Energy Efficient Green Building Standards. The bill is presently under consideration by the legislature and has gained bipartisan support.

Even though no bill has passed the General Assembly, the Connecticut Department of Public Works has moved ahead to require LEED™ certification on certain state projects. Presently a new Science Building is under construction at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU). This building is expected to be completed in early 2005, with a goal of attaining LEED™ silver and will be the first Green laboratory building the state has sponsored.

The Department of Public works also has registered a New Science & Classroom building at ECSU, a residential Dorm at ECSU and at SCSU, and a residence Hall & Parking Garage at WCSU.

Other LEED™ registered projects in Connecticut include the new Bristol Myers Squibb Facilities in Wallingford; Hamden Middle School; Hotchkiss School Music & Arts Center in Lakeville; Middletown High School & Vo-Ag Center; and the Pfizer Clinical Research Unit in New Haven.

For more information on high performance green buildings in Connecticut, visit <http://www.ctgbc.org/greenbldgs.htm>