



USGBC LA

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL LOS ANGELES

2023
Impact
Report

USGBC-LA.ORG | 213.689.9707

U.S. Green Building Council – Los Angeles

2023–2024 Board of Directors

Committed to impact through partnership, collaboration, community, and innovation.

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Vice President, ESG,
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Company

Transforming the market through action and engagement

A letter from the Board Chair and Executive Director

When we began 2023, the work ahead of us seemed almost insurmountable. We have laid out an ambitious strategic plan because we believe that no worker, no family, no community should be left behind in our just transition to a cleaner, greener, and healthier California. As we reflect on 2023 and look to the even greater work ahead of us in 2024, **it's because of you that we have grown over 50% for the fourth consecutive year. It's because of you this impact is possible...**and we're just getting started.

This past year we've trained nearly **4000 people**, launching certifications for **Wildfire Defense** and **ESG Fundamentals**. Our **Green Building Corps** intern program has had a **30% job placement** rate and our **Green Schools** program has provided over **1300 K-12 students** with sustainability fundamentals education. Our **Green Homes** program engaged over **3000 residents** in disadvantaged communities through outreach and education, installing EV chargers, air quality sensors, heat pump water heaters, and HVAC units.

Our team persevered through what are very real obstacles in this new and important electrification work. We published an **embodied energy and carbon cost white paper** on moving water to our region and throughout our buildings. We brought a global coalition of Fortune 500 companies here to address the **reduction of residential water use** by piloting **32 homes** in the San Fernando Valley with point-of-use metering to create a data set that does not exist in the market today. Our **Net Zero Accelerator** has helped **90 companies** scale to market adoption, tracking more than **60 pilots** to make an impact in net zero energy, water, waste, and carbon right here in California...and we're just getting started.

Looking to 2024, we will launch an Extreme Heat certification for construction workers to serve the climate resilience needs of our frontline communities. To better mitigate the environmental cost of moving 40% of US goods through our ports in our local communities, our Green Homes program is working

with more than 60 single-family homes in Wilmington to install clean technologies such as heat pumps and induction cooktops, and will also release a first-of-its-kind dataset on indoor air quality in low-income, multifamily housing. We will launch a Green Building Academy to provide hands-on workforce development opportunities for communities of concern without access or exposure to the green jobs of the future. We believe we have a responsibility to lead and prove what is possible when we all work together. For this reason, we're expanding our conference to become the **California Green Building Conference**, inviting leaders from across the state to join us as we continue our mission to transform California into a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable region for all.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and team, we express our **heartfelt appreciation** for your active involvement and generous support. This is an extraordinary community of green building enthusiasts: our sponsors, members, advocates, volunteers, and collaborators. **Thank you** for the opportunity to serve. We invite you to engage in any way you can: become a member, be a volunteer, be a mentor, support a program, or grow yourself... because we're just getting started.

Sincerely,



Gary Lai
Board Chair

A handwritten signature of Gary Lai in a cursive script.



Ben Stapleton
Executive Director

A handwritten signature of Ben Stapleton in a cursive script.



When our community unites, remarkable things happen!

In 2023, USGBC-LA continued its mission to leverage the built environment as an entry point to create a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable California region for all. As a community-driven organization, we proudly share our annual impact report, highlighting our work over the past year to drive market transformation through impactful action and education.



11,001

Event Attendees

have actively participated in our initiatives focused on building a more sustainable future for all.



154

Events Hosted

including networking gatherings, conferences, roundtables, project tours, exhibitions, and career fairs.



181

Volunteers

supported our committees, events, and annual Environmental Justice Project while also presenting Sustainability Fundamentals to K-12 students and mentoring our Green Building Corps.



100+

Partnerships

with industry, community leaders, municipalities, and agencies to drive sustainable projects and community awareness, prioritizing occupant health, cost savings, and climate resilience.



637

Individuals

and organizations joined our community. Driven by a shared commitment to positive change, this diverse assembly brings a wealth of passion and expertise.



54

Professionals

and businesses joined our [Professionals Directory](#), significantly strengthening our community by fostering collaboration, supporting local businesses, and empowering individuals with greater access to expertise and services.



22

Media Mentions

across various platforms including print, online publications, blogs, TV shows, radio programs, and podcasts, showcasing widespread coverage and engagement across diverse channels.

Advocacy

In 2023, USGBC-LA launched its [Advocacy + Policy](#) program to formally represent its long-standing commitment to impactful policymaking and effective advocacy of shared priorities industry-wide. Thus, our advocacy is focused on advancing policy topics that leverage the built environment to accelerate action, engagement, and education to fight climate change. With the rising momentum and attention given to high-performance buildings, environmental justice, green jobs, and climate adaptation, our priorities centered on 4 key areas: Building Decarbonization, Workforce Development, Drought Resilience, and Wildfire Defense

Additionally, our interpretation of advocacy extends far beyond support letters and tracking state legislative bills. **USGBC-LA is about people.** Our advocacy efforts anchor the people we serve and are interwoven into all we do. **Our mission is our advocacy. Our programming is our advocacy. Our events are our advocacy. Our projects are our advocacy. Our training is our advocacy.** Galvanizing our member base is our advocacy. Activating our community is our advocacy.



USGBC-LA's impactful initiatives, focused achievements and transformative outcomes

Created new partnerships and connections, including:


48

new partner connections were made


25+

recurring touchpoints with State Representatives and public agencies


30+

connections with State Legislators reached during Advocacy Day


37

letters of support and sign-on letters

Established supportive infrastructure within the organization by:

- Creating public-facing Advocacy + Policy content across internal platforms (including website, branding package, messaging, and A&P Resource Hub)
- Gaining 500+ views to the new Advocacy + Policy web page since August 2023
- Providing various USGBC offerings with policy and/or advocacy support to area partners and local jurisdictions
- Liaising with state and local electeds for letters of support for pivotal USGBC-LA grant pursuits
- Interweaving the priorities of the organization's offerings and its committees with new mission-aligned partners to further their work

Served USGBC-LA members and partners by:

- Providing multiple touchpoints with active committees on advocacy and policy matters
- Organizing a California Green Building Advocacy Day
- Deepening collaborations with the USGBC National Advocacy Team
- Deepening the organization's presence and relationships with various state Representatives and state public agencies
- Having multiple touchpoints and active alliances with mission-aligned climate organizations
- Supporting multiple local coalitions related to building electrification

Climate Resilience

-By the people for the people-

USGBC-LA works to raise awareness around the vulnerability of buildings and communities to various risks from the increasing impacts of climate change. We lead efforts to share national best practices and offer guidance to enhance local climate resilience.

In collaboration with the [Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory \(BHAC\)](#), Climate Resolve, the City of Los Angeles, and The American Red Cross, USGBC-LA has established the city's first resilience hub to be powered by solar energy, equipped with battery storage, a high air quality HVAC system, and backup water resources within the Conservatory. This center ensures the community's access to essential services in all circumstances, including natural disasters.

The Boyle Heights Resilience Hub project has been used as a model for scaling community resilience through "resilience ecosystems" of resources, hubs, and networks, consisting of existing and proposed community resources, including physical facilities, services, communications, and community-led human networks that prepare communities for the impacts of climate change while enhancing social equity and environmental justice.

In addition, with support from The Energy Foundation, local artists have created a [smog-eating mural](#) that envisions a clean energy future for the Boyle Heights community. **This mobile mural, exhibited at different locations in the City of Los Angeles with over 5,000 viewers, actively purifies the air by capturing harmful pollutants, contributing to a healthier and more resilient East LA.**



Interconnected Relations Mural



Net Zero Accelerator (NZA)

The Net Zero Accelerator (NZA) is an educational program for growth-stage companies solving for net zero energy, carbon, water, and waste.

Now in its sixth year, the [NZA](#) focuses on piloting projects in real-world, trackable implementations. We work to rapidly drive measurable adoption of net zero solutions, today. With your support, we pair our cohort companies with experts to encourage scalable solutions, promote awareness of their solutions to the right audience, and strongly emphasize placing technology pilots with building partners that support a net positive future.



250+

Innovators

guided, inspired, and better prepared for market adoption at scale in Southern California and beyond.



90

Member Companies

strongly positioned to solve for net zero energy, carbon, water, and waste.



60+

Active Pilot Sites

with LACCD, CSUN, Kilroy Realty, LADWP, NRDC, Hudson Pacific, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, and others.



1

Registered Trademark

with the USPTO. We claimed and now hold the "net zero accelerator" trademark space.



50+

Partners

& expert advisors including thought leaders representing Southern California Edison, Momentum, SoCalGas, the Canadian Consulate, Fifth Wall, First Republic Bank (now JPMorgan Chase), and others.



3

NZA + Program Partner

projects continuing to advance with The 50L Home Coalition, Electrified Construction Coalition, and the Canadian Consulate.



8

Custom Showcases

hosted exclusive partner pitches with LADWP, ULI, EDF, Verdical Group, GreenBiz Group, and more. Co-hosted a Finnish innovator delegation, highlighting solutions for LA's built environment and launching NZA Lab at [MyGBCE](#).

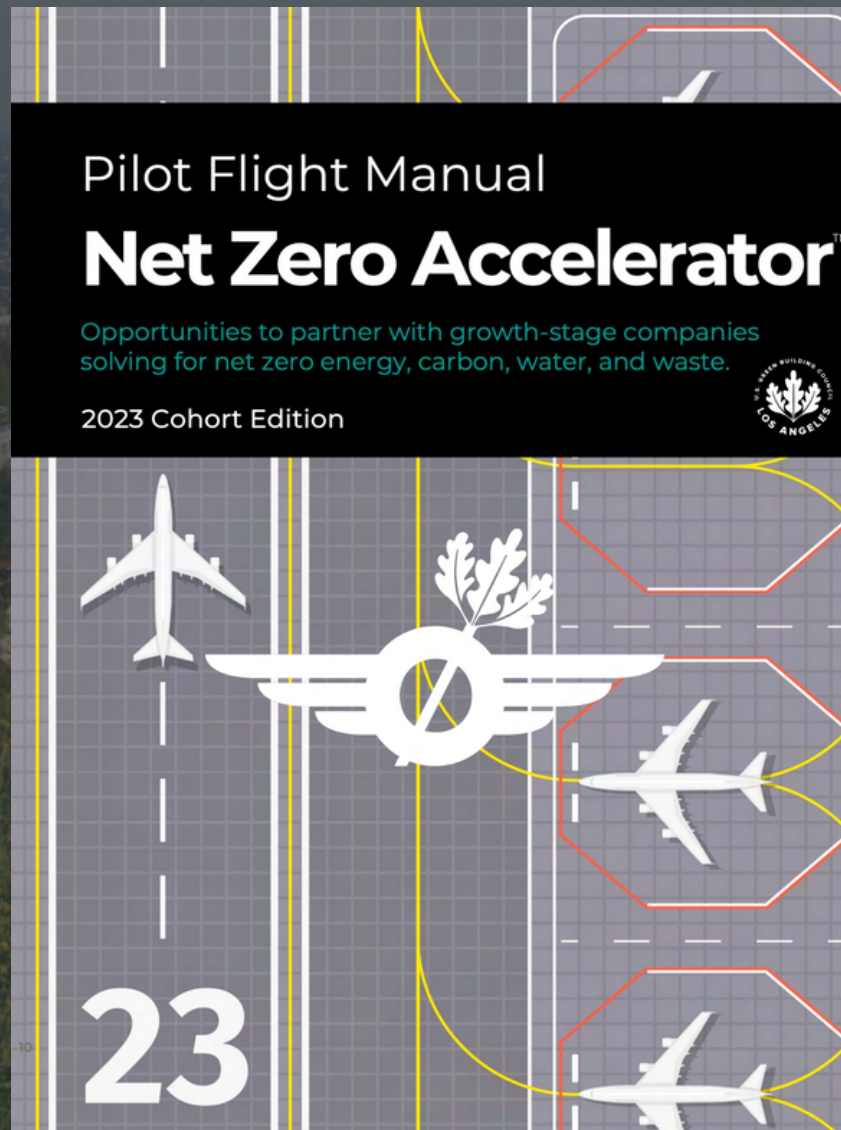


3

Major Accolades

with one 2023 member named to TIME's Best Inventions of 2023, another awarded the Trailblazer at the Net Zero Conference, and a 2021 member awarded B2B Innovator of the Year at the CHARGE Energy Branding Awards in Berlin.

In addition to expanding and enhancing the [NZA Pilot Flight Manual for 2023](#), we developed a system of collateral materials highlighting key learnings, resource links, and more from 9 program training sessions. These USGBC-LA branded synopses, coupled with videos of the modules, have established the foundation for a scalable curriculum to build on and elevate for future cohorts and partner/sponsor opportunities.



Wildfire Defense

USGBC-LA's Wildfire Defense program, with the generous support of Southern California Edison, and SoCalGas, educates on reducing wildfire risk. It empowers community members and professionals to enhance resilience throughout the fire season. Through collaboration with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, our team developed the Wildfire Defense Professional Certificate training for Landscape and Construction professionals. **We efficiently delivered classes for both modules, benefiting 327 professionals within our community. 141 certificates were issued to students at no cost, highlighting our commitment to providing valuable learning opportunities.**

Special recognition goes to the Wildfire Defense Advisory Group, composed of experts from USGBC-LA's network of fire resiliency professionals. This group convenes regularly to provide industry updates and offer valuable feedback on the program.

The program's first-year success led to USGBC-LA being awarded a CALFIRE grant. This grant will support the continuation and expansion of the Wildfire Defense Certificate training, including workshops and property tours, for the next three years.



The City of Los Angeles Green Business Certification Program

USGBC-LA partnered once more with the City of Los Angeles to assist local businesses in obtaining certification through the [Los Angeles Green Business Certification program](#). This initiative aids businesses in addressing energy efficiency, waste management, and sustainability, granting them access to the California Green Business Network and rebates. Utilizing operational, behavioral, and procurement-related approaches, the USGBC-LA team offered **complimentary support and sustainability guidance to over 260 local businesses and entities, resulting in:**



103

Participants

from various businesses and entities participated in certification information sessions hosted by USGBC-LA.



100

Businesses

were provided with assistance with 50 businesses achieving certification in 2023.





Christine Marez

Vice President, Sustainability and ESG,
Cumming Group

Vice Chair, USGBC-LA Board of Directors

Christine Marez learned about USGBC-LA primarily from working in the built industry locally in Los Angeles from the early days of her career. A few years ago, she wondered how she could contribute more time in the areas of service, thought leadership, and advocacy. Through discussions with USGBC-LA leaders Melissa Sullivan Gutierrez and Ben (Stapleton) Christine began serving on the Board of Directors.

Christine's favorite part about volunteering is participating in USGBC-LA's events and Board activities. As a people person, she loves to build relationships with the USGBC-LA staff and its members. *"It has always been my business philosophy that people want to work with people they like, and with the amount of work we have in the climate industry, there are many opportunities for creating partnerships to collectively advance our goals and share innovations."*

Christine chooses to support USGBC-LA because its mission and programs are a powerful force in California and in the climate industry – championing technological breakthroughs, driving results, and acknowledging industry Owners who are making a difference. *"There is an advantage to donating to USGBC-LA whose programs are fully integrated with every part of the building industry and workforce development here in Los Angeles."*

In 2024, Christine is looking forward to the California Green Building Conference. *"Our new expanded conference format will increase conference attendance and sponsorship which will allow us to present more workshops, sponsor student participants, and attract key industry and State of California leaders. I also am looking forward to spending more time with key USGBC-LA committees and offer some of my 30+ year experience in Green Schools."*

Los Angeles Sustainability Executives Roundtable (LASER)

We are dedicated to supporting both large and small companies in our region by providing them with peer-to-peer learning, resources, and innovative solutions to enhance their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) objectives.

The [Los Angeles Sustainability Executives Roundtable \(LASER\)](#), brings together top corporate sustainability executives in the region and serves as a collaborative forum where these leaders address the significant challenges that corporations face in their journey towards achieving sustainability goals.

LASER's primary focus is to achieve net-zero emissions across facilities and operations, representing a significant step towards a more sustainable future.



120

Members

joined LASER events, spanning topics like data, metrics, reporting, a luncheon with Deputy Mayor Nancy Sutley, and discussions on Scope 3 Emissions, Renewable Energy, Battery Storage, a Hydrogen Demo project, and Zero Emissions Vehicles.



170

Sustainability Leaders

engaged through our peer-to-peer network to support best practice sharing and knowledge transfer.



Maria Sison-Roces

Manager of Corporate Sustainability Programs, LADWP Office of Sustainability, Environmental Affairs

"Being part of LASER is like being in a tribe with sustainability leaders of LA's most impactful companies and organizations. We discuss, share, and explore the latest on sustainability trends. We help each other stay on top of relevant practices, ideas, and solutions. With everything that's going on, it's nice to have a regular forum that brings together like-minded, passionate, and motivated sustainability professionals to collectively keep moving the sustainability needle in LA."

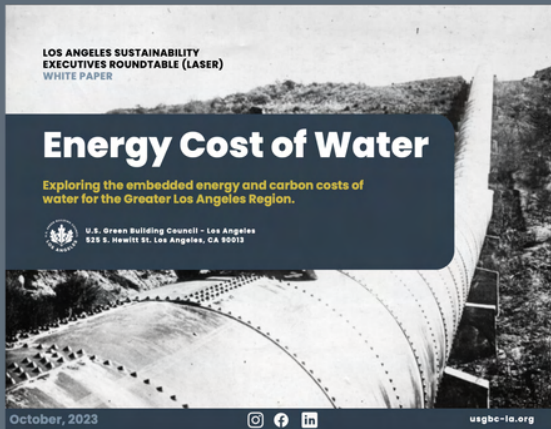


Natalie Teear

Senior Vice President, Innovation, Sustainability, and Social Impact, Hudson Pacific Properties

"LASER is a valuable resource for me and my team. It's a great way to build relationships with smart, like-minded professionals in LA working on corporate sustainability issues, and the network provides an important forum for knowledge-sharing on timely issues impacting the LA region."

White Papers and Best Practices Guides

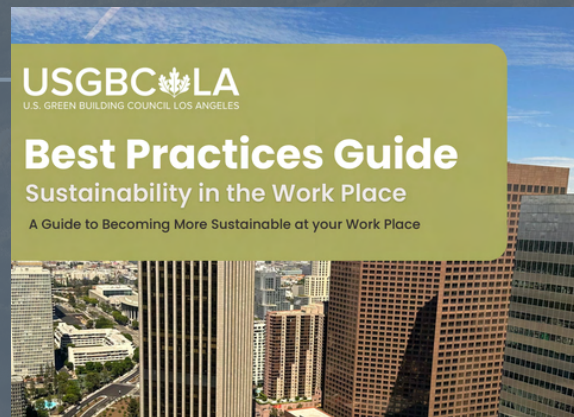


White Paper on Energy Cost of Water

Assesses the energy and carbon footprint tied to water provision in Southern California, from transportation to distribution, exploring alternative sources.

Best Practices Guide on Sustainability in the Work Place

Offers practical strategies for enhancing office sustainability, covering purchasing, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and employee engagement.



Best Practices Guide on Electrified Construction Equipment

Invites collaboration for a greener world, urging involvement in shaping electrified construction practices.



Green Homes: Los Angeles

In 2023, USGBC-LA expanded the reach of [Green Homes LA](#), seeking to enhance housing affordability and pave the way for decarbonization and improved occupant health in low-income communities.



105

Properties

were added to the pipeline in 2023, totaling **129 to date**.



62

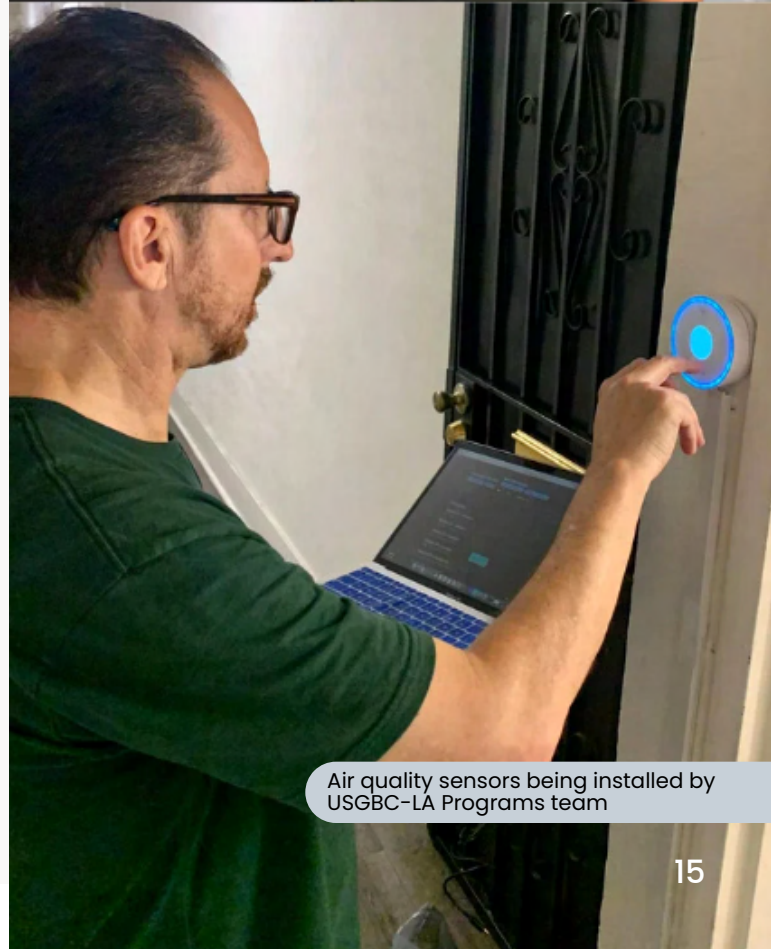
Advisors

are part of the Green Homes LA advisory group.

Throughout 2023, Green Homes LA executed installations and engaged directly with property owners and residents across various **Los Angeles areas, spanning the Eastern San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica, South Los Angeles, San Pedro, and Wilmington**. Now working with both multifamily buildings and single-family homes, the Green Homes initiative aims to reduce energy and water costs, enhance indoor air and water quality, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.



First heat pump water heater installation at residence in Wilmington



Air quality sensors being installed by USGBC-LA Programs team

For multifamily properties, the Green Affordable Housing Program (GAHP) provided support by:

- Installing EV charging stations
- Monitoring air and water quality
- Retrofitting space and water heating systems to more efficient heat pumps

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF), USGBC-LA successfully launched [Healthy Homes for Wilmington](#) in 2023.

This program offers no-cost green technologies, including heat pump water heating, induction cooking, and EV charging, to single-family homes.



13

Heating Systems

underwent successful retrofits to high-efficiency heat pumps.



641

Individuals

attended various community engagement events throughout 2023.



32

Property Assessments

were completed to identify energy-saving opportunities.



3,030

Residents

were engaged through outreach and education.



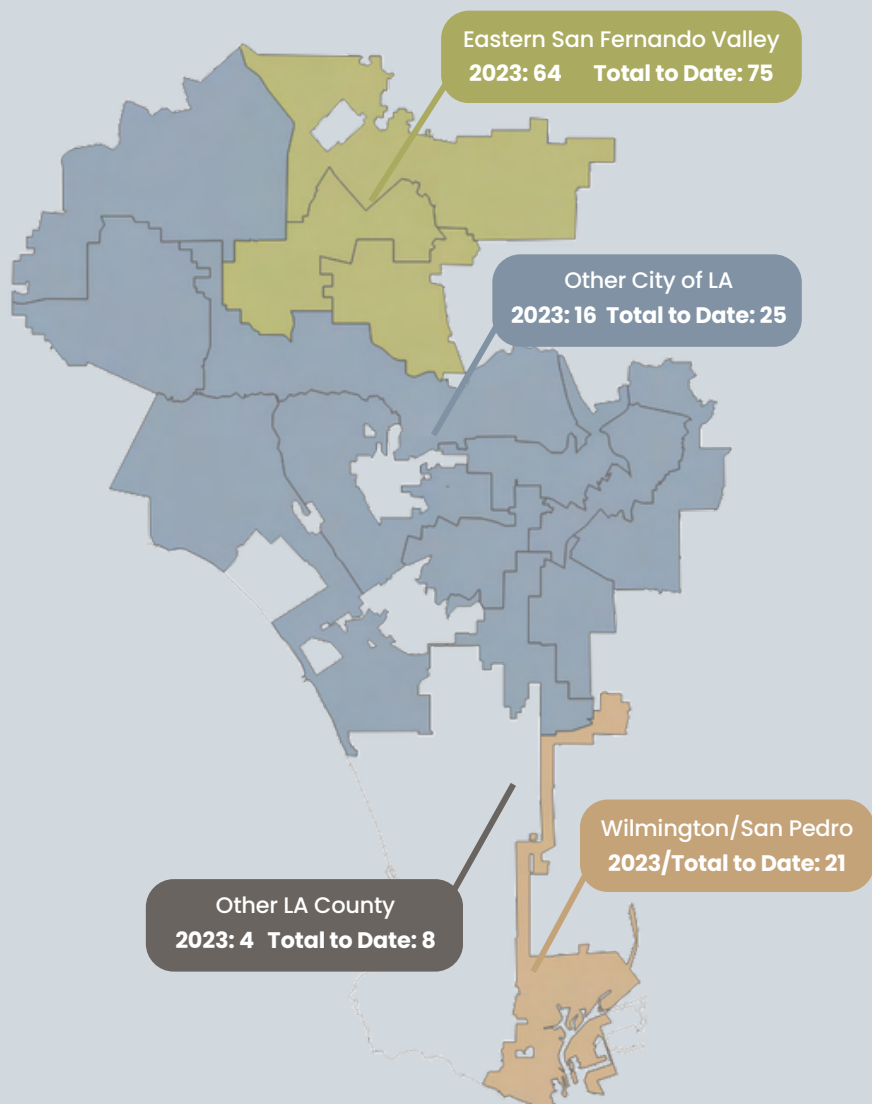
40

Air Quality Sensors

were installed across 10 properties.

Total Properties in Pipeline*
2023: 104 | Total to Date: 129

*Both multifamily buildings and single-family homes



Green Homes LA actively partners with community organizations and forward-thinking companies to develop tools and educational materials. These resources are tailored for residents, property owners, managers, and tenants to pave the way toward increased sustainability in the places we live, work, and play. Publicly accessible on the USGBC-LA website, these tools include:

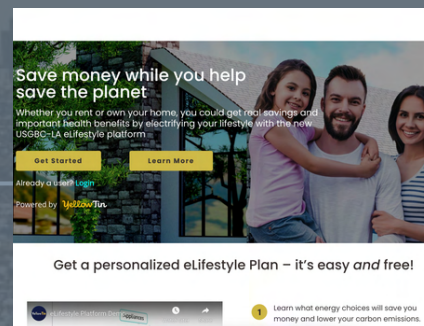


Personal Emissions Calculator

Enables residents to calculate their carbon footprint and get tailored emission reduction tips.

Menu of Efficiency and Electrification

Offers a comprehensive guide for building owners/managers on energy-efficient options.

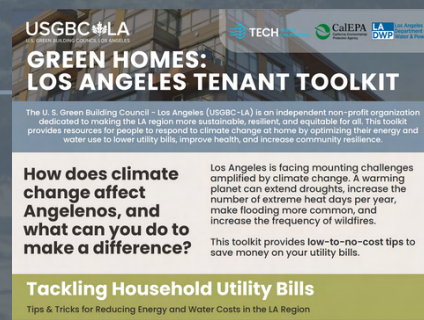


Local Emissions Reduction Map

Provides a tool for communities/policymakers to prioritize actions.

Tenant toolkit in English and Spanish

Provides tenants with guidance and resources to lower utility expenses through energy, water, and waste efficiency.





Residential Customer

"My neighbor told me about the [Green Homes LA] program for low-income neighborhoods, [and] I felt this program was a perfect fit for me and I started to develop a relationship with USGBC-LA. It was ideal because soon all of us will need to install electric equipment in our houses, so I felt very excited to have it for free through the program. My favorite part of the program was the people we were working with. They were very friendly and flexible in adapting to our schedule, they understood that as residents we were working or busy, so they were very understanding. [Other people should get involved with Green Homes LA] because USGBC-LA provided a very good service for the residents, but also because through this program we were able to save money and it is also very positive for the future. All the residents in California will have to install these electric water heaters in the future. That's why I invite all of them to participate."

Ana Zuno

Residential Customer, Heat Pump Water Heater

"LADWP is a proud funder of the USGBC-LA's Green Affordable Housing program through LADWP's Community Emission Reduction Grant (CERG) Program, and is delighted to hear about the expansion of their program. LADWP takes great pride in knowing that the CERG program contributes to such excellent initiatives that will benefit the community. Innovative projects such as USGBC-LA's that target low-income communities, conduct outreach with community members, and are committed to energy efficiency and occupant health will contribute to a greener and more sustainable future for LA."

Katherine Rubin

LADWP CERG Program Manager, Director of Corporate Environmental Affairs Division



The Future of Water at Home 50L Home LA Pilot Project

USGBC-LA has joined forces with the 50L Home Coalition in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), along with participation from private sector leaders and companies such as Electrolux, IKEA, Kohler, and Procter & Gamble. Together, they aim to highlight cutting-edge water and energy innovations in homes across Los Angeles. **The ultimate objective is to reduce daily water consumption to 50 liters (13 gallons) per person per day and to create scalable solutions for cities facing water stress.**



31

Single-Family Homes

are participating in this innovative pilot study, featuring point-of-use monitoring for hot and cold water, irrigation, and appliances with millions of data points to date.



15

Single-Family Homes

have undergone whole-home retrofits that integrate highly water-efficient fixtures and appliances at every end-use.



Environmental Justice

USGBC-LA's Environmental Justice Project stands as a blueprint for community initiatives, offering enduring benefits and the potential for replication by projects or communities addressing similar environmental justice issues.

The Environmental Justice Committee selects grant recipients and supports projects promoting sustainability and socio-economic progress.

In 2023, **The Reverence Project Survivors Healing Garden** was honored as the recipient of the **Environmental Justice Project**. This project, located in Watts, South Los Angeles, serves as a reflective space and gathering area for survivors of violent crime.

The support provided included:

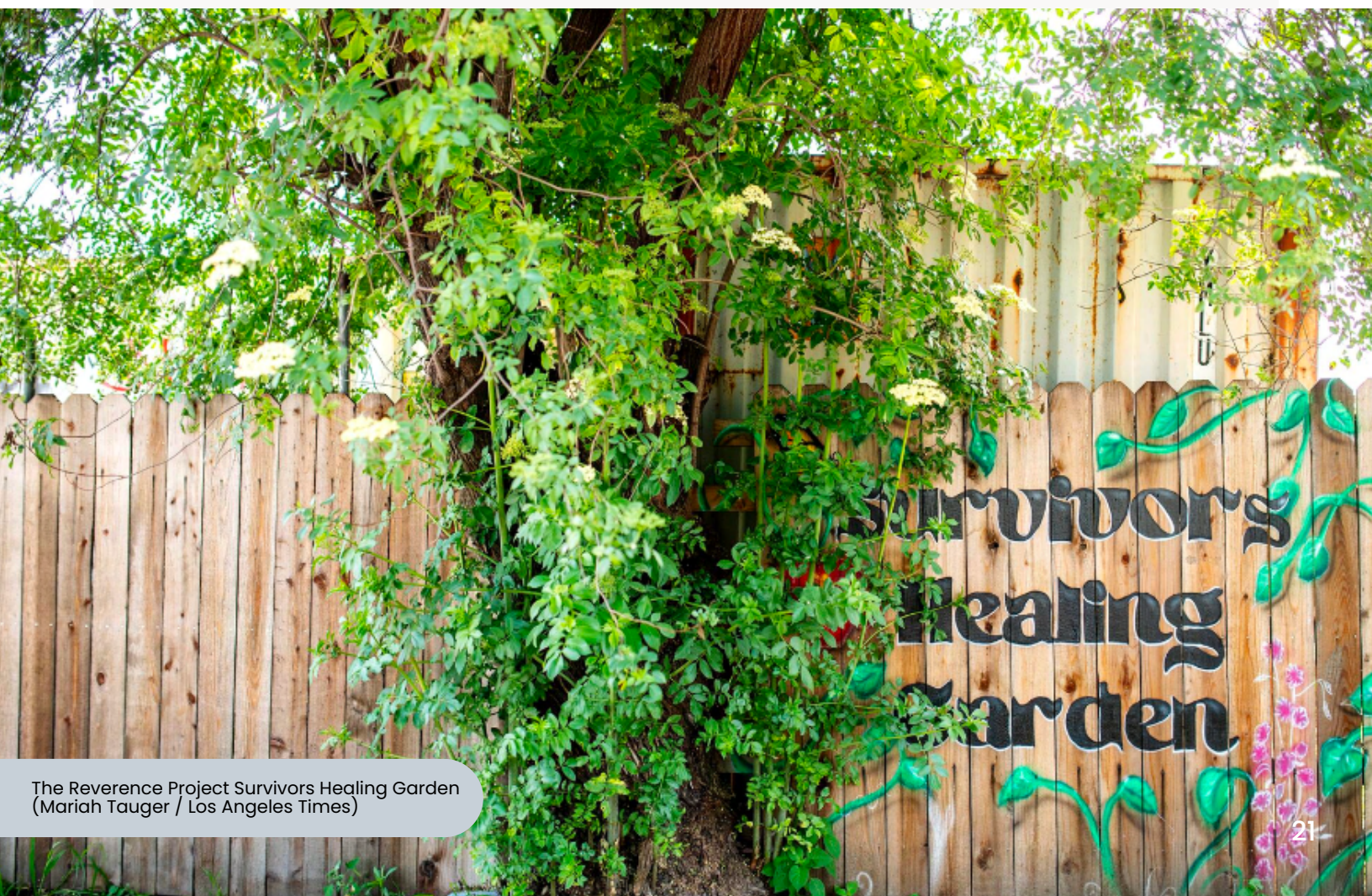
- Native landscape design & installation
- A super adobe fire circle bench
- Installation of a bridge
- Mosaic tiles art installation



2023 Environmental Justice volunteer days

We extend our thanks to the HDR Foundation for awarding the 2023 HDR Foundation grant amounting to \$23,000 to bolster the Environmental Justice Project leading to the involvement of 130 volunteers who generously contributed their time and talent to 2023 project events. The Reverence Project has become a sanctuary for the Watts community, fostering healing from endured traumas through collaborative green space development. This marks the second and final year of The Reverence Project, which was honored with the USGBC-LA Environmental Justice Project Award.

The successful completion of this project ensures that the Watts community gains access to a beautiful native landscape, a fire circle bench, and a juice bar featuring local produce, providing a dedicated resting space for visitors. The project exemplifies the essence of USGBC-LA's environmental justice work in under-resourced communities, emphasizing the transformative impact of sustainable initiatives.



The Reverence Project Survivors Healing Garden
(Mariah Tauger / Los Angeles Times)

Green Schools

In 2023, USGBC-LA continued providing 90-minute sustainability fundamentals workshops for elementary and secondary students in the greater LA region.

These sessions were facilitated by guest speakers from the USGBC-LA member community, comprising architects, engineers, and sustainability professionals.

The workshops drew the participation of 1,342 students, who attended the sessions and received hands-on toolkits created through collaboration with the Two Bit Circus Foundation.

Additionally to creating and revising content for the Sustainability Fundamentals workshops, our Green Schools Committee organized various events. These included Sustainability Career Fairs tailored for both Middle and High School students, and the committee extended its support to 4 school sustainability projects through our microgrant program. Furthermore, the committee initiated a dedicated sub-committee focused on aiding school campuses specifically with sustainability projects. These projects include campus greening, recycling, waste reduction, composting, vegetable gardens, and assessments related to indoor and outdoor air quality and energy and water efficiency.



25

Volunteer Speakers

from our Green Schools Speakers Bureau received sensitivity training and content updates to deliver the 90-minute workshops.



1,342

Local K-12 Students

in 2023 (a total of 2653 overall) have received the Sustainability Fundamentals through in-person and virtual workshops in English and Spanish.





Green Schools Committee Sustainability Career Fair at Santa Monica High School

"Thank you for an amazing presentation. The students gained lots of new knowledge and received reinforcement for the concepts we were teaching in class. The students love applying the concepts of Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle immediately upon completing the presentation with the hands-on project!"

Luis Sandoval

5th Grade Teacher, Victoria Ave. Elementary

"Thank you for the sessions you've provided our classes and know that both students and faculty appreciate you and everything that they've learned. You are amazing and once again, I send you my wishes of strength, determination, and wisdom to keep on promoting green education."

Fidela B. Suelto, E.D.L.

Principal Holy Family Grade School - Glendale



Sustainability Fundamentals Workshop at Rosemead High School

Green Building Corps

The USGBC-LA [Green Building Corps \(GBC\)](#) is a structured internship program offering participants, including students from diverse backgrounds, valuable work experience, meaningful relationships, and opportunities to contribute to green building projects actively. The overarching aim is to enhance the overall health, affordability, and sustainability of the greater Los Angeles region for everyone.

This inclusive initiative provides students with hands-on experience and provides a pathway to employment, aiding them in furthering their careers.

3 GBC Members

successfully secured full-time positions at USGBC-LA.

18 GBC Members Positioned

into roles within the sustainability field.

36 GBC Members Secured

employment or improved their career positions while participating in the program, representing a 30% success rate.

108 Members Joined

the GBC program since its launch in 2020, forming 7 cohorts.



Resident engagement for air quality sensors with our GBC member Maria.

10



**California
College Corps**

students participated in the program through state funding support.

5



**Companies Hired
GBC Members**

through our bundled hours packages to support their projects.

53



**GBC Members
Paired**

with mentors to enhance their professional development.

“

“I’ve been enjoying my GBC experience, thank you again for navigating me through this journey. It’s been nice meeting startup founders through the NZA and attending the workshops since I also learned much about entrepreneurship.”

**Kenshin Ueoka**

GBC 6th Cohort

“Being a USGBC-LA intern has allowed me to meet so many brilliant people and has encouraged me to work towards my certification in CNPLC and Wildfire defense along the way! As an aspiring landscape architect, this has been an invaluable experience that has shaped my view on design and collaboration!”

**Savannah Baca**

GBC 6th Cohort

“Working with the GBC has been incredibly instrumental in deepening my understanding of green infrastructure in a way that feels both accessible and practical. It’s so exciting to be a part of making LA’s climate mitigation strategies something community members can engage with. I continue to look forward to the mentorship I am receiving from this great team on working to address climate equity solutions in neighborhoods that need it most.”

**Norah Kyassa**

GBC 6th Cohort

”



Professional Development / Trainings

In 2023, USGBC-LA successfully obtained funding to broaden the offering of professional development training, most of which was free for participants. **This initiative comprised 97 classes or workshops, with 3,311 students either attending the sessions or obtaining a certificate upon completion of the training.**

Recurrent classes for green building professionals included:

Custodial Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Janitor Education Program 	
Professional Landscapers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CA Native Plant Landscapers Wildfire Defense for Landscapers 	
Construction Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPRO Construction Management Wildfire Defense for Construction Pros Suicide Awareness in the Construction Workplace ISI Envision SP LEED (GA, AP, Cities & Communities, Documentation) 	
Sustainability Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonization & ESG Capacity Building ESG Professional Series 	
Building Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPRO Operations & Maintenance 	
All Professions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPRO Fundamentals Continuing Education Courses 	

Our [Career Center](#) has undergone a redesign to function as a central hub for resources dedicated to professional development, **offering:**

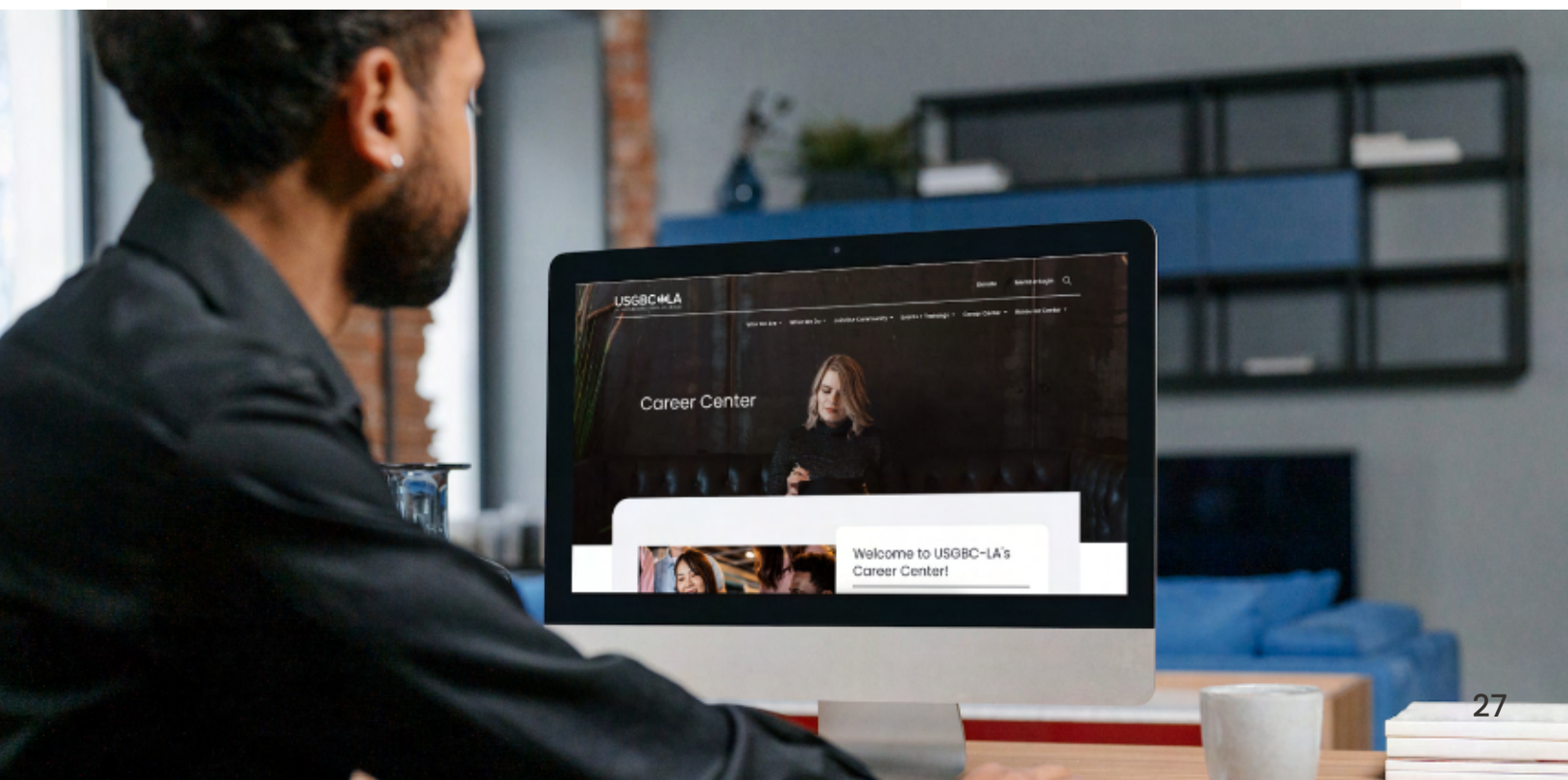
Green Jobs: Featuring over **400** concurrent job listings and a minimum of 30 new job postings weekly.

Green Employers: Showcasing profiles of **85** regional companies, complete with job openings and additional information.

On-Demand Content: A library housing **80+** recorded webinars, workshops, and training sessions, continuously updated in real time following new sessions.

Professionals Directory: Recently introduced on our website, this directory facilitates connections between top sustainability professionals within our network and the broader community. The platform hosts diverse experts, allowing users to filter based on designation, credentials, business type, location, and services offered.

Career Fairs: In addition to updating our interactive career center online, we hosted **4** Virtual Career Fairs in 2023 with **636** registrants and **28** employers.



Green Janitor Education Program

In collaboration with the Building Skills Partnership and SEIU, this initiative addresses the increasing sustainability and health requirements of commercial businesses and campuses. It benefits owners, custodial staff, and tenants, all while ensuring adherence to green cleaning procedures.



175

Individuals

completed the certification.



1,867

Individuals Certified

as Green Janitors to date.



7

Different States

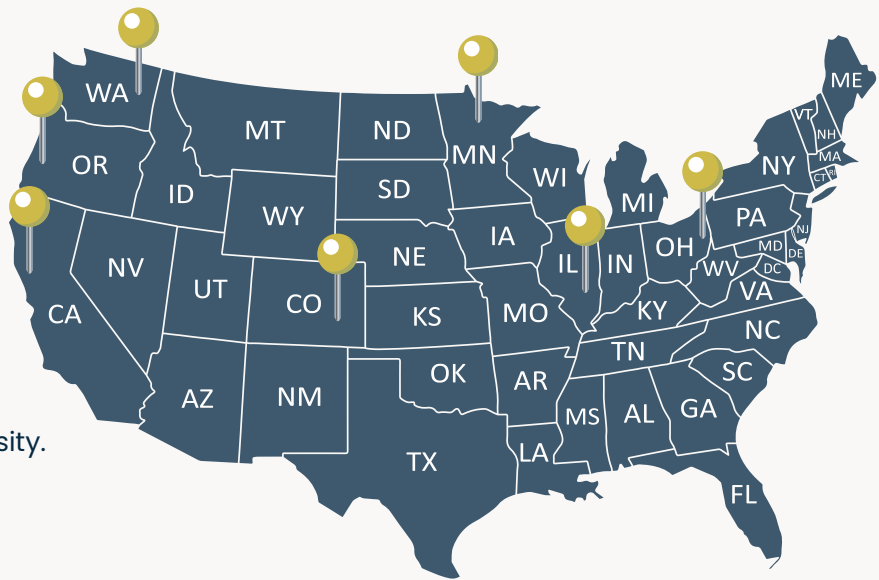
showcasing geographical diversity.



200+*

Individuals Completed

their studies outside of California.



* This figure pertains to growth beyond California and encompasses over 200 entities, incorporating data from 2022 as part of the expansion.



Electrified Construction Coalition

USGBC-LA, local leaders, and the City of Los Angeles have partnered to bring electrified construction equipment to the broader Los Angeles region.

This innovative coalition, nationally acknowledged, is committed to enhancing equipment accessibility and addressing challenges associated with cost, education, environmental quality, and infrastructure.



joined our Electrified Construction Roundtables.



joined the Coalition in the first year.



released on [Electrified Construction Equipment](#) as part of its collaborative efforts.





Driving collective efforts for a greener tomorrow.

In our community, authenticity, inspiration, and purpose drive our collective efforts. Together, we collaborate with a shared sense of purpose, prioritize continuous learning, and maintain a constant awareness of the impacts of our work. Here, individuals delve into understanding the "why," "who," and "how" of sustainable living. Connecting with like-minded others, we strive to lead our region towards a greener, more equitable built environment.

As part of our commitment to collaboration and engagement, we offer various member committees that provide unique opportunities for involvement. These committees serve as dynamic forums where members can actively contribute, share insights, and drive initiatives aligned with our collective goals.

"Being a USGBC-LA member has exposed me to many learning opportunities related to my field. It has also provided me with the ability to network and make connections with other community members - adding value to my role in the Green Building industry."



Tia Troxel

Sustainability Associate,
Kilroy Realty Corporation

"Being a part of USGBC-LA, and meeting all of its driven members really brings hope in a world where sustainability is more important than ever. This community shares an enormous amount of valuable information and knowledge throughout their events and committees that push our careers as well as our dreams to the next level."



Alexandre Authie

Senior Project Engineer, Energy +
Sustainability at AMA Group
Awardee of the 2023 USGBC-LA Emerging Leader Award

"Being a USGBC-LA Committee leader has skyrocketed my industry knowledge, local networking opportunities, and policy insights. I am grateful to be part of the USGBC-LA community and contribute to local sustainable impact."



Mel Bergsneider

Executive Account Manager,
Allume Energy



Member Committees

Building Decarbonization

Collaboratively promotes education, policy development, and programs focused on building decarbonization in the greater Los Angeles region through initiatives in education, technology, tools, policy advocacy, and materials/products.

Construction

Provides a collaborative space to advance sustainability in construction across the greater Los Angeles region through educational efforts, leadership initiatives, and facilitating access to valuable resources.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

Strives to prepare and unite change agents advocating for environmental, socioeconomic, and racial equity, specifically emphasizing the green building sector.

Emerging Professionals

Bring together fresh perspectives from emerging talents in the sector, supporting all committees and serving as a pipeline for developing leadership positions.

Green Homes

Creates a dynamic platform for exchange, engagement, and alignment to promote healthy, sustainable, affordable, and regenerative practices in home building and living. This committee addresses disparities in access to information, resources, and technology by advancing awareness, knowledge, and innovation in greening homes through education, training, and outreach.

Green Schools

Engages Southern California schools in a dialogue promoting the growth of a sustainable school system, focusing on student well-being and environmentally conscious building structures. The Campus Greening Subcommittee specifically supports school administrators, staff, and facilities managers in their campus greening efforts through resource compilation and educational workshops.

Environmental Justice

Supports USGBC-LA's annual Environmental Justice Project, dedicated to fostering environmental, economic, and social sustainability across diverse neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

Urban Landscape

Works to protect and expand access to high-quality green spaces, with a focus on areas where nature can have the greatest impact on community health and resilience. This includes public schools and youth in historically excluded local communities.

Women In Green

Unites women and allies, builds networks, celebrates women leaders, and contributes to the creation of healthy, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient communities for all.

Volunteer Branches

Member groups are active in Long Beach and the Inland Empire regions, providing dedicated service and support.



Rick Duarte

Construction and Engineering
Sustainability Program, Metropolitan
Water District of Southern California

Rick Duarte got involved with USGBC-LA through his work at the Metropolitan Water District. *“After learning all USGBC-LA was doing in sustainability, I felt I had to get involved.”* Rick actively volunteers on the [Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee](#), serves on the Board of Directors, and for several years has been the Master of Ceremonies for USGBC-LA’s MiniGolf Tournament which raises support for the annual Environmental Justice Project. Rick’s favorite part about engaging is a combination of the people who all want to move sustainability forward in the right direction and the events where great work is celebrated.

Rick says, “If someone is considering supporting USGBC-LA, come and see the work we’re doing. We’re working in our underserved and underrepresented communities to try and change the sustainability footprint, whether creating green landscapes or reducing heat islands.”

Another opportunity Rick says members can get involved in is to join a committee to help drive the change we want to make in our communities. USGBC-LA members have the opportunity to serve on volunteer committees to dive deep into specific sustainability areas of service. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee worked over the past year to understand what needs and desires volunteers have to learn and better serve one another.

What excites Rick most about the upcoming year is giving back to his local community. Rick volunteers to teach the Green Schools program to students sparking a passion for sustainability. Rick shared, *“I am a firm believer that if you can see it, you can be it, and I want a student to see me and believe they can work in sustainability.”*

Conference Impact

The 22nd Annual **My Green Building Conference & Expo (MyGBCE)** maintained its status as the premier and most enduring assembly of prominent sustainability and green building proponents in Southern California. The conference and expo achieved success by delivering cutting-edge thought leadership, valuable education, and networking opportunities. These offerings served to educate local government agencies, building industry professionals, and the public on the principles, practices, and products of sustainability.

**90****Exhibiting Participants**

and business leaders presented tangible solutions to combat the climate crisis.

**16****Awards**

were presented to recognize outstanding municipal building projects, along with honors such as the Policy Leadership Award, Municipal Innovation Award, and Elected Official of the Year Award.

**1,500****Sustainability Advocates**

participated in 34 sessions, engaging in collaborative learning on addressing sustainability in the built environment collectively.

**71****Individuals**

attended an ESG Fundamentals training and certification workshop as part of the event.



MyGBCE 2023





MyGBCE 2023



"Special event. I have attended many conferences, and I can't express how much I loved MyGBCE and the high value my colleagues saw in the conference. The local emphasis, great networking (both new and seasoned friends), beautiful venue, progressive and relevant sessions, community art, diversity of attendees/speakers, and great exhibitors... so fabulous and inspiring! It was such a thoughtful, community-oriented event. Amazing job by everyone."



Kathleen Hetrick
Associate, Buro Happold

"MyGBCE is where I have made connections 10 years ago that I still have to this day. In fact, it was during the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) days that we made breakthrough connections to connect job training with stimulus programs. The time is indeed now to make new connections as we decarbonize our environmental justice innovation zones in the U.S."



Marc Costa
Co-Founder, OpenStudio
Coalition

Green Gala

The Annual Green Gala serves as a cornerstone of our impact, driving vital support for over 13 sustainability initiatives.

Through this event, we empower and engage with more than **20,000** individuals in our communities, fostering a profound and lasting influence on environmental stewardship and progress.



440

Attendees

joined the celebration to acknowledge and support sustainability efforts.



17

Sustainable Innovation Projects

recognized at USGBC-LA's 19th Annual Green Gala for their leading role in advancing green buildings and their design teams.



9

Community Leaders

honored for their commitment to transforming Southern California into a more sustainable region for all.



Green Gala 2023



Women In Green Breakfast: Our Impact with the Inflation Reduction Act

In September 2023, we successfully revived the annual WIG Breakfast, hosting a fully booked, in-person assembly at the City Club. This significant yearly gathering serves as a platform to convene, connect, and unite in support of women in our industry.

The event featured distinguished speakers, including Ariel Fan, Vanessa Delgado, Susana Reyes, and Ruby Rose Yepez, with moderation by Jessica Mack. The speakers delved deeply into the impactful Inflation Reduction Act, shedding light on its transformative effects on crucial aspects such as affordable housing, insurance premiums, medication costs, and more through an engaging panel discussion. The insights shared and ensuing discussions truly highlighted the power of collaboration and collective knowledge.

The event, which drew participation from 117 leaders and advocates and valuable insights from the 4 panel speakers, offered a wonderful networking opportunity and contributed to the collaborative atmosphere that enriched the overall experience. This created a successful and impactful Women in Green Breakfast event.



Women In Green Breakfast 2023



Green Schools Sustainability Career Fair

The Green Schools Sustainability Career Fair at Santa Monica High School aimed to align with CA Clean Air Day, focusing on Energy, Transportation, Waste, Water, and Climate Change. The fair engaged students and teachers through tabling, activities, and additional resources. A dedicated hour-long workshop provided valuable resources for high school students, covering career paths, internships, certifications, and training in sustainability fields. Professionals actively working in sustainability volunteered their time for the workshop, representing diverse areas such as the Parks Department, Architects, and Community Organizers.

The impact was significant, with 75 high school students signing up for the career workshop. During the lunchtime tabling session, 250 students accessed career pathway information, enhancing their understanding of sustainability opportunities. The fair served as a platform for education and fostered connections between students and professionals, creating a valuable experience for all involved.

Summer Member Mixer

In July 2023, the highly anticipated Member Mixer series made a comeback. Co-hosted with USGBC-LA member Lance Collins at the captivating exhibit "Close to the Edge: The Birth of Hip Hop Architecture" (presented by SoCalNOMA, A+D Museum, Helms Bakery), the event proved to be truly memorable. **Members not only celebrated the 50th anniversary of hip-hop but also enjoyed reconnecting with friends and colleagues, making it an unforgettable experience.**



2023 Major Funders

You are essential to the life-changing work we accomplish every day!

Diamond: \$50,000+

- Arcadis U.S., Inc.
- CAL FIRE
- Climate Resolve
- Consulate General of Canada
- Energy Solutions
- Harbor Community Benefit Foundation
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- SoCal Gas
- Southern California Edison
- USGBC
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Platinum: \$25,000+

- Calpine Energy Solutions
- CIM Group
- Green Wealth Energy Partners

Gold: \$15,000+

- CalEPA | Dept. of Resources
Recycling & Recovery
- HDR Foundation
- Howard Building Corporation
- ICF / SoCalRen
- Long Beach Container Terminal
- Rain Bird Corporation
- Sunbelt Rentals

Silver: \$10,000+

- Accelerate Resilience L.A. (ARLA)
- Architype
- Building Skills Partnership
- California Community
Foundation
- CalSTART
- Carpet America Recovery Effort
- Environmental Defense Fund
- FormLA Landscaping, Inc.
- Hudson Pacific Properties
- Kilroy Realty Corporation
- Lendlease
- LivCor
- Rachio, Inc.
- Southern California Association of
Governments
- Verdical Group
- Willdan

Bronze: \$5,000+

- ARUP US, Inc
- ASSA ABLOY
- Beneficial State Bank
- BNBuilders, Inc.
- Buro Happold
- Clean Power Alliance
- Cumming Construction Management
- Electrum
- Epic Metals Corporation
- Gaia Development LLC
- Green Building Initiative
- Institute For Sustainable Infrastructure
- IQHQ
- LA County Metro
- LAUSD
- Leading Edge Consulting Services
- Metropolitan Water District
- Momentum
- One Click LCA Ltd
- ULI Los Angeles
- Verdani Partners
- ZC Sustainability

Patron: \$1,000+

- Adept Materials
- Alveole
- AMA Group
- Athens Services
- Behr Paint
- Bentley Mills, Inc.
- Bernards
- Business Finland
- Capacity Power Group
- Carbon Title
- ChargePoint, Inc
- City of Santa Monica
- Cove.Tool
- Craig Lawson & Co., LLC
- Design Build Labs (DBL)
- Disney
- ENGIE North America
- First Republic Bank
- Fortress Power
- GBM Sales
- Green EconoMe
- GRENITE Recycled Surfaces
- Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction
- Hearth Labs
- HMC Architects
- Illinois Green Alliance
- Jelinek Cork California
- Jessie Buckmaster
- Kimley-Horn
- Kit Switch PBC
- Liz Goldman
- Minnesota Training Partnership
- Pella Windows & Doors
- PowerStack USA
- QuitCarbon
- RainStick Shower
- Ramo Group
- Recircled Inc.
- Rising Realty Partners
- Roux
- RUNWITHIT Synthetics
- SafeworkCM
- San Bernardino Community College District
- Shannon Specialty Floors DBA Teknoflor
- Sitelogiq
- Skanska USA Commercial Development
- Smart Main Panel
- SoLa Impact
- Solar Landscape, LLC
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Sterile Safe Solutions
- Swyched
- The Port of Long Beach
- ThermoShade
- Transwestern
- Universal Waste Systems
- University of Southern California
- Venaera Inc.
- VinFast Auto
- Volvo Construction Equipment & Services



Sara Hickman

LEED AP, WELL AP, EcoDistricts AP
USGBC-LA Board Member
Senior Vice President, Leading Edge

Sara relocated from Boston to Los Angeles in 2008. With a strong desire to build value through sustainability, she found USGBC-LA and began volunteering right away. Thirteen years later, she is co-leading a sustainability consultancy where she helps her team craft their own vision for sustainability and their careers.

Sara believes we get out of life what we invest. This is what drives her financial support and volunteerism at USGBC-LA. Volunteering since 2009, she served on the Existing Buildings Committee for 4 years, the Green Gala Committee where she has co-chaired for the past 3 years, and on USGBC-LA's Board of Directors for 5.

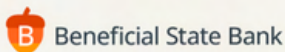
In the coming year, Sara shares she is looking forward to supporting leadership and staff as USGBC-LA continues to grow its collaboration and impact throughout California. She is excited to see more collaboration across organizations. *"We do not need to work in silos. That is not how we get this work done."* Included in that work is the need to fill a gap in industry ESG knowledge, decarbonization, and sustainable design. Sara sees this as a growing future volunteer opportunity for our community. *"Come over to USGBC-LA and let our team share all of the ways you can make a difference."*

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors!

USGBC-LA deeply appreciates the invaluable support from our Annual Sponsors. In partnership with these sponsors, we organize nearly 200 events and programs annually, attracting a combined total of more than 11,000 attendees.

Our sponsors play a pivotal role in reshaping the construction sector and influencing the future of green schools, workplaces, and communities in California.

Collaboratively, we strive to create a more sustainable California for all.



California Green Building Conference

Discover the forefront of sustainable living at the California Green Building Conference, the state's largest and longest-running gathering dedicated to environmental advocacy!

This year, we're expanding our reach to encompass the entire state of California, welcoming advocates and companies from all corners to unite in a comprehensive exploration of green building and sustainability practices. From renewable energy solutions to green architecture, our conference covers a diverse array of topics crucial for building a resilient and environmentally conscious society.

Join us to kickstart or elevate your journey in the sustainability field and be a catalyst for positive change! Don't miss out on this unparalleled opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, forge new partnerships, and gain practical insights that you can apply to your own projects and initiatives.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE
MAY 23, 2024.



USGBC-LA's Annual Mini-Golf Tournament

USGBC-LA's Annual Mini Golf Tournament serves as a fundraising event dedicated to directly supporting our Environmental Justice Project.

The Environmental Justice Project is an annual initiative that represents a gift from USGBC-LA members to the underserved communities in our region. These members actively participate in designing, building, and supporting the project. The Environmental Justice Project team is committed to ensuring community support, incorporating an educational and sustainable focus, promoting replicability, and addressing various socio-economic conditions.

Initially conceived to bridge the gap between social equity and environmental resilience, the project acknowledges the disproportionate impact of climate change on certain communities. Historical injustices, racial segregation, redlining, and the siting of hazardous pollution sources in disadvantaged communities contribute to the disparities witnessed in Los Angeles and globally.

**Save the date for the next Mini-Golf event:
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024.**



USGBC-LA's Annual Green Gala

The Green Gala stands out as the ultimate celebration, bringing together over 500 attendees for a night of unforgettable fun and impact. Hosted in 2023 at Hollywood's Taglyan Complex, the event pays tribute to the best projects, teams, and individuals dedicated to creating a more sustainable region for all.

The Annual Sustainable Innovation Awards (SIAs) recognize excellence in sustainability, innovation, and community impact. These awards celebrate individuals and projects with exceptional commitment to the sustainable built environment. The SIAs are open to both built and unbuilt projects certified under any sustainability rating system or those on track to achieve certification.

For 21 years, USGBC-LA has been driven by people. Our **Community Awards** acknowledge individuals and teams who propel our work forward through significant community contributions and accomplishments.

Save the date for the next Green Gala event:
DECEMBER 11, 2024.





USGBC LA

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL LOS ANGELES

2023
Impact
Report

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