



# TEXAS

## Our Narrative of Priorities

The U.S. Green Building Council Texas Chapter (USGBC Texas) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to transforming the way our buildings are designed, constructed and operated around the world.

***Our Mission:*** Transform the way buildings, homes and communities are designed, built, maintained and operated in Texas through outreach, education, advocacy and partnerships, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life in Texas.

The Chapter's focus goes beyond individual buildings to sustainability more broadly, including water conservation and protection, land use planning and conservation, multimodal transportation and urban redevelopment. At USGBC, we work with government, member businesses, and allied organizations to support policies and programs that advance greener buildings and communities for a better planet and a better future.

USGBC Texas has **five broad Advocacy priorities:**

### Government Leadership by Example



- We assert green building as a priority in Texas and make inroad relationships with legislators
- Every two years we host Texas State Advocacy Day, a chance for volunteer advocates to discuss the promotion of green building legislation
  - Past activities: Green Building Resolution (HR 1617) in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session

### Private Sector Market Transformation



- We strive to highlight green building as a driving force for smart development in the private sector
- Past activities: support of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) statute during in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session and ongoing support of the Texas PACE program

### Raising the Bar on Codes and Regulations



- Local adoption of green building codes is beneficial for both businesses and the environment and Texas should set the standard for the adoption of sustainable development practices
- Past activities: during the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the statewide adoption of the IECC 2015 code was allowed with HB 1736 and took effect in 2017

### Community-wide Sustainability



- Promote community-wide sustainability including advocacy work and education at state and local levels, providing advocacy support for local sustainability plans
- We plan to continue our efforts with the Urban Affairs Committee and sustainable/resilient development of hurricane-ravaged areas in Texas
  - Examples include our support for San Antonio's SA Tomorrow plan and Resilient City efforts in Dallas and El Paso, along with supporting LEED for Neighborhood Development

### Green Schools



Communicate the benefits of green schools to local school districts through our members and with the Green Schools Caucus to emphasize the 3 pillars of a green school:

1. *Reduced environmental impacts and costs*
2. *Improved occupant health and wellness*
3. *Effective environmental and sustainability education through Green Apple Day of Service*

For information visit: [www.usgbctexas.org](http://www.usgbctexas.org)