



# NEWS RELEASE

---

1800 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20036  
T: 202 828-7422  
F: 202 828-5110  
[www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

Contact: Ashley Katz  
Communications Manager, USGBC  
202.742.3738  
[akatz@usgbc.org](mailto:akatz@usgbc.org)

## **The Clinton Climate Initiative and the U.S. Green Building Council Expand Global Partnership**

*Collaboration to include new program development that will rethink and radically reduce  
greenhouse gas emissions from new building developments*

Washington, DC – (February 10, 2009) The Clinton Climate Initiative and the U.S. Green Building Council today expanded their partnership to radically reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions from the built environment on a global scale, with an initial focus on accelerating efforts to drive efficiency in existing buildings. Homes, schools, offices and other buildings account for 38% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally, according to the U.N. Environment Program. In the U.S. alone, the “low hanging fruit” in building efficiency could save the economy more than \$160 billion by 2030, according to McKinsey & Company. Looking ahead, new program development is underway to rethink and redefine new building developments.

“Retrofitting buildings represents an immediate and measurable opportunity to cut greenhouse gas emissions and improve our economy; they are a priority for my Climate Initiative which is encouraging retrofit projects around the world”, said former President Bill Clinton. “I’m proud to strengthen my Foundation’s collaboration with the USGBC to accelerate this important work.”

“Two years ago, the Clinton Climate Initiative helped put the urgency of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by improving the performance of our existing building stock squarely on the national agenda,” commented USGBC CEO, President and Founding Chairman Rick Fedrizzi. “USGBC is proud to partner with CCI to accelerate and expand the effort at this critical moment. Green building creates green jobs that save energy and money – and green building will help save our climate.”

To date, the Clinton Climate Initiative’s Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program has helped partners to initiate more than 250 retrofit projects encompassing over 500 million square feet of real estate in more than 30 cities around the world. These include retrofit projects across the municipal, private, commercial, education, and housing sectors. USGBC’s LEED for Existing Buildings/Operations and Maintenance (LEED EB/OM) certification system has resulted in energy performance improvements ranging from 30 – 60% in certified buildings. More than 2300 projects in 12 countries have been registered or certified through LEED EB/OM.

-more-

### **About USGBC**

The U.S. Green Building Council is a 501c3 nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Since USGBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 18,000 member organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building certification systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo ([www.greenbuildexpo.org](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org)), and a network of 78 chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

### **About the Clinton Climate Initiative**

President Clinton launched the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) in August 2006 to make a difference in the fight against climate change in practical, measurable and significant ways. In its first phase, CCI is serving as the exclusive implementing partner of the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group, an association of large cities around the world that have pledged to accelerate their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In May 2007, CCI launched its Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program which brings together many of the world's largest cities, real estate firms, energy service companies and financial institutions in a landmark effort to reduce energy consumption in existing buildings across the public and private sectors. Expanding upon its work with the C40, CCI has extended the benefits of its building retrofit program to additional cities, building owners and institutions.

For more information about the Clinton Foundation and CCI, please visit [www.clintonfoundation.org](http://www.clintonfoundation.org).

###