



Central Texas – Balcones

[www.usgbc-centraltexas.org](http://www.usgbc-centraltexas.org)

## The U.S. Green Building Council Central Texas-Balcones Chapter at a glance

### What is The U.S. Green Building Council?

- The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.
- Founded in 1993, USGBC encourages green building practices through a variety of educational programs for the public and building industry professionals. This includes the LEED green building certification system, the leading program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings.
- With a community comprising 78 local chapters and branches, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 100,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010.
- USGBC is transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life.
- In 2009, 82% of corporate America is expected to be greening at least 16% of their real estate portfolios. USGBC envisions buildings and communities that will regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life for future generations.
- With buildings accounting for over 60% of all electricity consumed in America, it is necessary to address more efficient building practices. Reducing consumption is the cornerstone of energy efficiency, which is fundamental to the USGBC mission.

### What is the USGBC Central Texas–Balcones Chapter?

- Founded in 2003, the Central Texas - Balcones Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC CT-B) is a 501c3 non-profit organization comprising building and associated industry professionals from Austin, San Antonio and 55 counties along the Balcones Escarpment in Central Texas.
- The Chapter, which has over 700 members, is committed to accelerating growth in sustainable building and land development practices through innovation, advocacy and partnerships.
- There are more than 1000 LEED Accredited Professionals; over 30 LEED certified buildings, and 200 registered LEED projects in the Central Texas region.
- The Chapter hosts LEED Green Building Rating System™ workshops and offers other educational sessions and networking events for the region's green-building professionals.
- The Central Texas - Balcones Chapter offers members a variety of volunteer opportunities, including serving on committees such as advocacy, communications and sponsorship.

## What is LEED?

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a third party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.
- LEED promotes the use of proven strategies, guiding and measuring achievement in all areas of building impact such as site development, energy efficiency, water conservation, and materials. LEED provides a roadmap for sustainable design and ensures building performance through third party verification.
- LEED encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria for both new and existing buildings.
- LEED Certified Buildings in Central Texas include the Zachry Construction Corporation, Employment and Conference Center in San Antonio (Gold Certified), The Dell Children's Hospital in Austin (Platinum Certified), Ronald McDonald House (Platinum) and The Austin City Hall (Gold Certified).

## How can you participate?

- **National Membership** – for companies and organizations looking to become USGBC members, find out about national membership at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)
- **Chapter Membership** – for individuals wishing to be involved in the region's green building movement, join us at [www.usgbc-centraltexas.org](http://www.usgbc-centraltexas.org). Dues are:
  - Regular Member: \$65.00
  - Employee of a National Member organization (30% discount): \$45.50
  - Full-Time Student (60% discount): \$26.00
- **Benefits:**
  - Expand your professional network
  - Actively participate in the green building movement
  - Potentially influence the Chapter's activities by serving in leadership positions and using your voting privileges
  - Obtain discounted prices for LEED workshops, educational sessions on green building technologies, applications, and other membership events
  - Advance notice via email of upcoming events and educational workshops, as well as newsletters, member-only events, and much more.
- **Sponsorships:** There are numerous tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities available for businesses and individuals. You can become a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze Sponsor for one year or sponsor an individual event, workshop or seminar. In-Kind sponsorships are also considered. Exposure varies depending on the level of sponsorship.
- **Certification:** Have your home, business or development LEED certified with the help of one of over a thousand LEED Accredited Professionals in Central Texas.
- **Accreditation:** Attain LEED Professional Accreditation through the Green Building Certification Institute and join over 100,000 professionals already promoting green building practices.

For further information please visit [www.usgbc-centraltexas.org](http://www.usgbc-centraltexas.org) or call 512-470-9923.