



HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS COALITION

--www.HPBCCC.org--

Air Conditioning Contractors of America
Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute
American Chemistry Council
American Forest and Paper Association
The American Institute of Architects
American National Standards Institute
Architecture 2030
American Supply Association
Alliance to Save Energy
Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions
American Society of Civil Engineers
The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
American Society of Interior Designers
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
ASTM International
The Associated General Contractors of America
Building Owners & Managers Association International
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Carpet and Rug Institute
Ecobuild America, LLC
Environmental & Energy Study Institute
Federation of American Scientists
Glass Association of America
The Green Building Initiative
The Green Mechanical Council
Green Building in Canada
Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International
International Code Council
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
Mechanical Contractors Association of America
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Fire Protection Association
National Institute of Building Sciences
National Roofing Contractors Association
Portland Cement Association
Practice, Education and Research for Sustainable Infrastructure
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors –National Association
The Real Estate Roundtable
Sustainable Buildings Industry Council
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance
U.S. Green Building Council

Supporting Policymakers in Building the Future

The **High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition (HPBCCC)** is a private sector coalition of leading organizations from the building community formed to provide guidance and support to the High-Performance Building Caucus of the U.S. Congress. The **High-Performance Building Caucus of the U.S. Congress** was formed to heighten awareness and inform policymakers about the major impact buildings have on our health, safety and welfare and the opportunities to design, construct and operate high-performance buildings that reflect our concern for these impacts. Fundamental to these concerns include protecting life and property, developing novel building technologies, facilitating and enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness, increasing energy efficiency in the built-environment, assuring buildings have minimal climate change impacts and are able to respond to changes in the environment, and supporting the development of private sector standards, codes and guidelines that address these concerns.

From the materials produced to construct buildings and the energy used to operate them, buildings and their occupants consume vast amounts of resources and are responsible for nearly half of all greenhouse gas emissions. High-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic and total societal impact, are the result of the application of the highest level design, construction, operation and maintenance principles—a paradigm change for the built environment. The U.S. should continue to improve the features of new buildings, and adapt and maintain existing buildings, to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy efficiency and usability by all segments of society.

As organizations representing all aspects of the building community, HPBCCC members stand ready to assist Congress and Federal Agencies in developing policies that advance cost-effective marketplace solutions to achieve national priorities through the building sector. Particular areas where buildings provide opportunities include:

- **Economic recovery and job creation**—The design and construction of buildings account for over 10 percent of the nations' GDP and employs an estimated 10 million people.
- **Energy and the Environment**—Our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40% of the primary energy and 70% of the electricity in the U.S. annually. Buildings consume about 12% of the nation's potable water. Building construction and related infrastructure consume

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approximately 60% of all raw materials used in the U.S. economy. Buildings account for 39% of U.S. CO₂ emissions annually—approximately equal to the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom.

- **Homeland Security and Disaster Mitigation**—Residential and commercial building design, construction, and operations should effectively guard against natural and human caused events and disasters (fire, water, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism).
- **Education**—Americans spend about 90% of their time indoors, with children spending much of that time in our schools. A well designed and constructed school can help facilitate learning. Additionally, the building sciences provide an excellent opportunity to engage students in a variety of subjects including technical education, science, engineering, and design.
- **Health Care**—Poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and elderly. Studies have shown that the design and construction of health care facilities can impact the recovery of patients.
- **Infrastructure**—Roads, bridges, and public transportation are designed to bring people to buildings. A thoughtful approach recognizing the interaction between infrastructure and buildings is necessary. High performance infrastructure systems (transportation, power, communications, water and waste) are essential to achieving high performance buildings.

A receptive and engaged federal community is essential to realizing the potential of high-performance buildings. Agencies critical to this effort include:

- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Energy: particularly the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and its Building Technology Program, the Office of Commercial High-Performance Green Buildings, Federal Energy Management Program, and the national labs
- Environmental Protection Agency: particularly the Indoor Environments Division and the EnergyStar program
- General Services Administration: particularly the Public Buildings Service and Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings
- Department of Homeland Security: particularly the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard
- Department of Commerce: particularly the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Department of Defense: particularly the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Veterans Affairs