



How do you spell USGBC? "T-E-A-M!"
[Chapter staff at a recent lunch outing]

A 2016 Kick-off

Gearing up to Scale!

It's an exciting year for the Chapter: we have big plans in 2016 (and of course 2017 with Greenbuild hosted in Boston)

It's also noteworthy to acknowledge USGBC's recognition of Massachusetts as having produced the [third most certified green building space](#) (per capita) in the US in 2015. That's right, we moved from #4 in 2014 to #3 this past year. This is a testament to the hard work that our green building pros (and especially LEED project admins) are doing to attain certifications. Nice work, people!

Coming up in 2016: The **Building Tech Forum** on 4/21/16 and a **Resilience Expo** in July. Let me know if you like the subjects and want to be involved.

In just about a month there are two big gatherings for our green building pros: [NESEA's "BuildingEnergy16"](#) in the Seaport of Boston. If you need a deep dive on LEED v4 or to explore LEED ND - [sessions are Tuesday, 3/8](#), for your educational needs. Also, hosted by our sponsoring partner National Grid, the [Association of Energy Engineers' "GLOBALCON"](#) in Boston's Back Bay.

We are providing more and more ways for you to support **our advocacy work**. Come out to our [Policy Podium session on Net Metering on Thursday morning 2/25](#) to explore the intricacies of this issue.

We are growing our educational programming and collaborating with more of our peer organization friends to connect more people more meaningfully throughout our industry. Our committees and working groups are super-charged and we have a great new Board of Directors - [as elected at our recent Annual General Meeting](#).

This is going to be a fun & productive year!

Thank you to our many all-star volunteers for helping with our programming - it was a pleasure [to recognize many of you at the ceremony in January](#).

Thank you, gentle reader, for supporting what we do to advance the cause of Green Buildings in Massachusetts. Look at everything we have going on below. I hope we see you soon at an upcoming program.

-Grey and the team (Maria, Ryan, Anthony and Celis as seen above)

See more at usgbcma.org

Our [blog](#), our [twitter feed](#) and [Facebook](#) can really benefit you, if you do some clicking! It might be just what you were looking for: all relevant, sometimes funny, and as useful as you want it to be!

**Boston Area
Sustainability Group:
Buildings of the Future -
How LEED and Living
Buildings are Changing
our Landscapes**



Tomorrow, Tuesday, 2/2, our Executive Director, Grey Lee, will be co-hosting a presentation with Shawn Hesse about Boston area LEED and Living Buildings. [Click here to RSVP!](#)

Net Zero Building Tour: Department of Fisheries & Wildlife



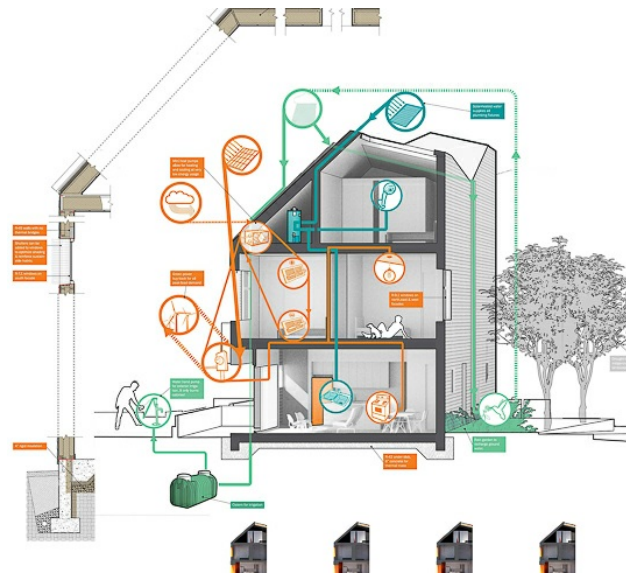
The Chapter will be visiting Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - Field Headquarters Building, Westborough, MA.

The facility achieves zero net energy through solar photovoltaics and innovative mechanical systems as well as building envelope quality and reduction of all energy loads through building management.

The building features a very efficient envelope with triple glazed curtain wall and metal windows as well as structural insulated panels. It has been oriented to optimize production from the rooftop photovoltaic panels while minimizing heating and cooling energy use.

This [building tour](#) will be on Tuesday, 2/23 in Westborough, MA. [RSVP here!](#)

Vanguard Series: "E+ - Key Secrets to Success with Net Positive Development"

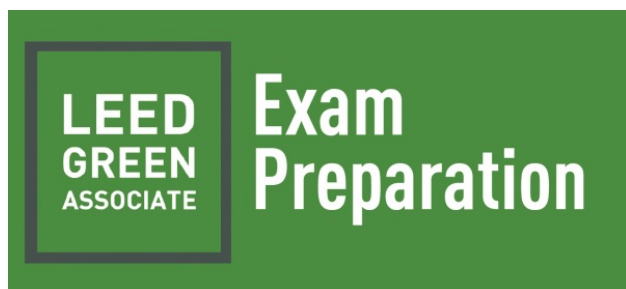


Join John Dalzell, Senior Architect at the Boston Redevelopment Authority for Part 1 of his three part E+ Series on the city's energy positive affordable energy development. This is a technical presentation on the E+ program. We look forward to having a deep level discussion on net-positive building development.

This [session](#) will be on Wednesday, 3/2 in Boston, MA. [RSVP here!](#)

LEED Green Associate Exam Prep Class

If you or a colleague need to take the exam to build up your resume and get up to speed with LEED, join us for this all-day exam prep



course. After this session, you will be ready to jam on the exam!

[Thursday, 2/18/16 at 8:30am to 5:30pm in Boston](#)

This is a great course to take and an excellent, condensed way to get on top of the material. Practice questions and test-taking strategies are shared and you'll walk away with confidence!

Policy Podium: Net Metering

An open discussion with expert colleagues about moving forward with solar and net metering in Massachusetts. As recent legislative proposals have shown, solar advocates and our House legislative leaders can't seem to find a path forward for net metering.



The obstacles to a resolution center around the cost of solar in Massachusetts, yet there is currently no action on the Net Metering Task Force (NMTF) recommendation to study the monetary costs and benefits of distributed generation solar. What do we, as advocates, need to know about the energy system in order to push most effectively on behalf of our mission?

Join us for this [Policy Podium](#) event on Thursday, 2/25 at 8:30am. [RSVP here!](#)

BuildingEnergy16: NESEA's big show is hosting our education sessions!

Tuesday, 3/8/16

["Hacking LEED v4: Innovation and Performance"](#) at 10am-1pm

How will green building practitioners use the updated and mandated LEED v4 to raise the bar on energy & environmental performance in buildings? At the end of October 2016, the current LEED 2009 system will no longer accept new projects and all projects will be registering in v4. Will you be ready?



["Building Blocks for Green Master Planning: A Hands-on Introduction to LEED ND"](#) at 2pm-5pm

This engaging, hands-on workshop will give participants a "learning by doing" introduction to sustainable site planning principles and USGBC's LEED for Neighborhood Development program. Participants will complete a series of guided exercises in small teams to develop their own plans for these sites using wooden building blocks on top of the case study site plan. Teams will test development feasibility, do site design, and apply LEED ND credits to their plans.

See you there!

EnerNOC's EnergySMART Conference!

Our friendly sponsor EnerNOC is producing an exciting 3 day conference in Washington, D.C from April 4 - 6. EnergySMART

2016 is about charting the change, and placing you ahead of it. Join top enterprises, energy service providers, and technology leaders to rethink the industry and refine your approach to energy management.



[Click here](#) to learn more about this event and register!

Advocacy Update:

Once again, thank you to our **Advocacy Committee** for their efforts to support our Chapter priorities. We are gearing up to advocate for our issues as Beacon Hill.

Special thanks to Maria Vietz, our departing Advocacy Fellow, who has done fantastic work over the last three months. Best of luck!

[We are currently planning an exciting "unconference"](#) centered on the Paris Climate Talks and how buildings are a big part of the solution. More details to come!

- **PACE:**

- Commercial PACE Financing has gotten big support in Connecticut, with [\\$54 million in PACE-funded projects](#) to-date.
- PACE is expected to move through the Senate in the coming weeks via

Bill S. 1774. Our staff and Advocacy Committee members are meeting with House legislators and building a coalition to raise their awareness of this simple solution to clean energy finance.

- [Learn more](#) about this energy-efficiency financing tool for commercial buildings.
- **Net-Zero:**
 - We had a fantastic turn out for our Green Breakfast featuring the City of Cambridge's Net Zero Action Plan. Read our blog post about the event!
 - Our Advocacy Committee will be creating a "guidebook" for these communities to follow, so they can reach their energy efficiency goals.
 - Learn about one organization that proposes solutions to climate change through changes to the built-environment [on our website](#).
- **Net-Metering:**
 - Get excited: we are planning a Policy Podium event featuring representatives from National Grid and supporters of net metering. Mark your calendars for Thursday, 2/25 at 8:30am. [Check it out on our calendar!](#)
 - [Learn more about net metering](#) and how we're working to support it!
- Ongoing tracked issues:
 - **Energy Efficiency Education**
 - **Home Energy Efficiency Assessment Requirements (Home Sellers)**
 - **Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax**
 - **Healthy Materials & Toxins**
 - **Local LEED Ordinances**

QUICK WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN GREEN BUILDING ADVOCACY

- Come to our Advocacy Round Table at 50 Milk St. on [Wednesday, 2/10 at 5:30](#) to gather important updates, and plan next steps! [Learn more here](#).
- Voice your support for **Commercial PACE Financing** by [sending one of these template letters](#) to the Representative from your district ([find your legislators here](#)).
- Email advocacy@usgbcma.org if you or any of your colleagues will help us advocate for this green building priority by joining the **PACE Coalition**.

Upcoming Webinars:

- 2/15, 6pm - 7pm, [Green Roofs Costs and Benefits](#) (In-person Webinar, Location: Sustainability Hub, 912 South Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610)
- 2/17, 4:30pm - 6pm, [Staying Current: Energy Codes & Sustainability](#)

Conference: Boston Sustainability & Property Management

BISNOW
(ALMOST) NEVER BORING

Join Bisnow on March 1st for their first Sustainability & Property Management event! Find out the real value that sustainability creates, and learn more about how climate change affects coastal cities like Boston. A second panel focused on maximizing property values through efficiencies in building operation will also be held.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register for this event!

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