



*Fine weather for progress!*

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## Gearing Up For a Busy March

Hello Force of Green-ness!

The first two months of 2016 have flown by for us here at USGBC MA, but we don't have time to stop and take a breath because we have a jam-packed and exciting schedule coming up with tons of events and opportunities in the next few months!

I was at a breakfast program this morning, run by another org, linking Sustainability & Property Management. There were great panels moderated by Chapter colleagues Mike Davis and Luka Matutinovic. It is fascinating to note how far our community of practitioners has come in the last 15 years. I remember pitching LEED in about 2003 and developers and owners just could not get their heads around it. Now, we see developers talking about how they only build out LEED space for their commercial projects; how they report in to GRESB because their big money investors like J.P. Morgan want to know; how high-end apartment developers are incorporating sustainability and wellness into their projects because their residents (and not just millennials!) are asking for these features. It is an exciting time - and yet - many projects forego a systematic approach to sustainability and leave money on the table.

It's sometimes unbelievable that we still have so much work to do, but it's awesome that in the global struggle to put an end to wasteful buildings, we are winning! Thanks for participating in this mission and marching together as a community for improved ROI and

improved sustainability in our communities.

*On that note, we have a **CALL FOR ACTION to support our Advocacy priorities**. We are approaching a critical deadline to support Net Metering legislation. We need your help to secure a renewable energy future for the Commonwealth. [Please click here to see more this in the Advocacy Update](#).*

We have big events coming up: our COP21 [Buildings Day Unconference](#) on 3/29; 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.

Next week we have 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.

I hope to see you at one of these upcoming events. It is always good to re-connect with comrades on the trail to More Green Buildings!

Thank you,  
Grey, Celis, Anthony, Ryan and Wenbin

*PS: who knows from what ancient military redoubt the above picture was taken?*

See more at [usgbcma.org](http://usgbcma.org)

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Our [blog](#), our [twitter feed](#) and [Facebook](#) provide useful intel with strategy and tactics on how to move forward and meet the challenges of green buildings.

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**SAVE THE DATE: Building Tech Forum - April 21st, 2016**



# BUILDING TECH FORUM | 2016

GREENTOWN LABS

28 Dane Street Somerville, MA 02143

APRIL  
21ST

5:30PM-8:30PM

Buildings are fundamentally about technology. Innovation in the building sector is driving improvements in performance and enhancements to the user experience. The [2016 Building Tech Forum](#) will connect the real estate world with the innovation economy. Join us! Vendor and sponsor/presenter packages are available.

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

**Tuesday, 3/8/16**

- ["Hacking LEED v4: Innovation and Performance"](#) at 10am-1pm
- ["Calculating the Life Cycle \(Cradle to Grave\) Impacts of Buildings"](#) 9am- 5pm
- ["Building Blocks for Green Master Planning: A Hands-on Introduction to LEED ND"](#) at 2pm-5pm
- ["Redefining Water Use and Waste: the Living Building Challenge Water Petal"](#) 2pm -5pm



## Policy Podium: Panel Discussion on Energy with Legislators and Industry Pros

**March 14th, 6-7:30PM**

We will be hosting an evening with Senator Benjamin Downing, to discuss his role and

impact on legislation and bringing green jobs to the Commonwealth.

We are also joined by Betsy Glynn from the Center for Sustainable Energy, Steve Cowell from E4theFuture, and Peter Shattuck from Acadia Center.



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

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## Green Building Blueprint: GRESB

**March 15th, 8:30-10AM**

Join us for a presentation on the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) Survey-what it is, how it works and where it's going-presented by Laura Barnatt, of TA Realty, and our Existing Buildings Committee.

The Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) was developed as a way for portfolio managers to more complexly assess real estate assets to uncover greater value for owners.

Through the GRESB process, an asset is rated in a new way, and the management entity is evaluated in a new way, which creates useful data about the underlying asset. With this data, and with the identification of component processes, asset managers can see into real estate and how non-financial aspects affect their financial performance.



G R E S B<sup>®</sup>

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

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## Green Building Tour: 450 Kendall Street

**March 24th, 5:30-8PM**

Join us for a tour of 450 Kendall Street, led by our event sponsors AHA Consulting Engineers and Arrowstreet. The facility has achieved LEED Gold, making all six of the buildings in BioMed Realty's Kendall Square project LEED certified. Kendall

Square was a pioneer: this development received a special permit as a Planned Unit Development (PUD) in 1999, before LEED certification was a requirement of special permits.



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

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## A Signature USGBC MA Event: COP21 Paris Climate Talks Unconference

**March 29th, 8:30-11:30AM**



Join us for a deep level discussion in a unconference/panel hybrid format. Here we will learn more on what happened at COP21 on a global platform and what our role is here in the Commonwealth. We have a number of panelist who were at Paris and we are partnering with a variety of orgs on this event (Sierra Club, CABA, ELM, Foundation for a Green Future).

### Agenda:

- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration and networking
- 9:00 - 9:15 Keynote and opening
- 9:15 - 10:30 Breakout with Discussion Leaders (unConference)
- 10:30 - 10:40 Break + Networking
- 10:40 - 12:00 Paris Panel with questions from audience

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

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## Building Blueprint: WELL Building Standard (Intro + Discussion)



The Chapter is excited to invite the thought leaders and practitioners from our region to join us for a concise introduction to the WELL standard followed by a roundtable discussion.

We are excited to welcome professionals from all sectors of the building industry, owners, engineers, builders and occupants interested in the new standard.

This [session](#) will be on March 31st from 8:30 - 10am and will be held in Boston, MA.



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## What is Greener than Green Buildings?

...green building practitioners at the Quarterly Meeting on St. Patty's Day! We will be convening a short meeting with representatives from each of the committees. We will be discussing the evolution of our organization and what feedback there is to be given.

We will then caravan to a local watering hole to celebrate all things green afterwards. Great networking potential!



This [meeting will be on March 17th](#) at 5:30pm in Boston.

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## AEE Conference: GLOBALCON

**March 9-10, 2016**



The [27th annual GLOBALCON Expo](#) will be held in Boston's Hynes Convention Center! Along with this year's expo will be a conference, seminars, and workshops that allow attendees to discover new products, techniques, solutions and services,

and network with industry professionals.

We have free tickets if you would like to walk the trade floor. If you would like to connect with the Chapter while you are there you can also join us to promote our mission at our booth - let us know if you are interested.

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## Presinars This Month:

- 3/16, 4:30pm - 6pm, [Buildings are for People: Design Strategies for Occupant Engagement](#) (In-person webinar, Location: 50 Milk Street, 17th Floor, Hercules Conference Room, Boston, MA 02109)
  - 3/17, 6pm - 7pm, [Green Neighborhoods Through Alleyway and Right-of-way Revitalization](#) (In-person webinar, Location: Sustainability Hub, 912 South Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610)
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## Advocacy Update:

### Attention USGBC MA Readers: This is an official "Call to Action!"

Advocacy Committee member David Bliss has alerted us that March 16th is the cut-off date for the Joint Rule 10 deadline for all joint committees to report out their bills. If those bills are not reported out, they will be "dead in committee."

This means we need to take action to support net metering, and we need your help to do it!

[Please go to this page to use our handy template letter](#) and send to [your appropriate legislator!](#)

[Our COP21 Unconference on buildings continues to take shape.](#) Check out the event page for a list of our panelists and discussion leaders, and register for the event!

### Issue Updates

- **PACE:**
  - Our PACE Coalition is working closely with the legislators, and are hopeful for its passage before July.
  - [Learn more](#) about this energy-efficiency financing tool for commercial buildings.
- **Net-Metering:**
  - Our recent Policy Podium on Net Metering was a smash hit, and we have learned a great deal about this complicated issue. First and foremost, we MUST raise the caps on net metering, support an independent study for the value of

solar in MA, promoting virtual net metering and community shared solar, and reforming the SREC program to promote on-site solar installation.

- [Learn more about net metering](#) and how we're working to support it!
- **Net-Zero:**
  - Work continues on our Net Zero Handbook for municipalities!
  - Learn about one organization that proposes solutions to climate change through changes to the built-environment [on our website](#).
- 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

- Voice your support for **Net Metering** by [sending this template letter](#) to the legislators from your district ([find your legislators here](#)).
- Come to our Advocacy Round Table at 50 Milk St. on [Tuesday, 3/15 at 5:30pm](#) to gather important updates, and plan next steps! [Learn more here](#).
- Email [advocacy@usgbcma.org](mailto:advocacy@usgbcma.org) if you or any of your colleagues will help us advocate for any of these Chapter priorities.

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## Calling for WELL Faculty Candidates:

If you have significant experience in the intersection of buildings and wellness, please send us a [note](#).

We are partnering with the International Well Building Institute and looking for WELL Faculty candidates who would like to present on WELL at regional educational summits in the future. Are you future WELL Faculty?



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## Retrospective of January & February

- 1/28, [Green Breakfast: Cambridge and a Net Zero Plan](#): We hosted Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Transportation and Environmental Planning for the City of Cambridge, as she spoke to the USGBC Massachusetts about Cambridge's



Net Zero Action Plan. We also discussed the idea of creating a "handbook" for smaller municipalities in Massachusetts to achieve net-zero.

- 2/11, [Annual Sustainable Dinner](#): We went to Commonwealth Restaurant and enjoyed a delicious & sustainable meal of the freshest locally sourced ingredients created by Chef Nookie; along with an educational presentation on the health effects of artificial lighting by our sponsor Jane Slade, RAB Lighting
- 2/25, [Policy Podium: Net Metering](#): Our podium featured an open discussion with experts from our community of professionals about moving forward with solar and net metering in Massachusetts. As recent legislative activities have shown, solar advocates and our House legislative leaders are not able to see a shared path forward for net metering. This discussion focused on solutions to political and legislative barriers.

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Thornton **Tomasetti**



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