Greener options for the manufacturing sector

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LEED User Group: Industrial Facilities Charter Document

Behind every achievement or milestone, there's a leader. In this case, it's a group of them. USGBC is excited to announce that we've been working with a dedicated group of industry professionals from the manufacturing sector to create more opportunities for greener, healthier, more efficient manufacturing facilities.

The LEED Manufacturing User Group's goals are simple--establish a collaborative community to identify, share and publicize the best-known methods related to the design, operations and maintenance of green manufacturing facilities. Green buildings have grown and evolved to touch nearly every building type in existence, from homes to hospitals. Manufacturing facilities are the origin of virtually every product we interact with on a daily basis. Many industrial manufacturing facilities have earned LEED certification thus far: 117, to be exact, accounting for 41 million gross square feet. Another 703 projects have registered for certification, totaling 221 million square feet. Even more promising is the size of market growth--375 percent in the last four years.

Manufacturing facilities have unique needs and many aren't covered in the suite of LEED rating systems. Removing barriers to entry and creating alternative compliance paths and specialty requirements related to the specialized challenges and aspects of the manufacturing world is essential. CH2M HILL, Colgate-Palmolive Company, Intel Corporation, Johnson Controls, Kohler Co., Procter & Gamble, Siemens, URS, and UTC Climate, Controls & Security are working to do exactly that.

Most recently, the group met in Portland, Ore., in May at CH2M Hill's offices – the second face-to-face meeting for the participants since congregating last year at Intel's offices in Santa Clara, Calif. Biweekly teleconferences ensure that the group stays in close communication, pushing their goals forward. They utilize this time to share knowledge on improving a manufacturing campus's environment and achieving LEED certification.

What's on the horizon? With the forthcoming release of LEED v4, the group will continue to inform the development of LEED, providing important feedback on current rating systems and the next update to LEED.

The group is always looking for additional ways to progress LEED manufacturing facilities and create collaborative opportunities with industry members. This peer group offers an opportunity for participants to connect and collaborate with the manufacturing community. Platinum members of USGBC are eligible to participate in the group, or participation can be purchased annually. Contact us for more information.

Rhiannon Jacobsen
Director, Strategic Accounts
U.S. Green Building Council

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5 comments

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Emily Neagle 30 weeks 6 days ago

Account Manager, U.S. Green Building Council

Hi Gaston and Laura, Thanks for your interest in this article and in the User Group. Yes, the Group is still working together and in fact just celebrated their third anniversary. Last Year we did rename the Group to "LEED User Group: Industrial Facilities" to better demonstrate that the focus is on the building in which the process takes place rather than the product output, so as you read through articles on USGBC.org lookout for that name from now on. The Group shares their output through multiple channels such as articles and Connect & Learn sessions at Greenbuild.Throughout April and May of this year we're sharing a series of articles about the progress in sustainable manufacturing. The first is here: http://www.usgbc.org/articles/five-myths-about-using-leed-manufacturing-... and full of helpful links and resources including the Group's Charter and other recent articles. If you have project specific questions, we can work to connect you with the right resources. Any of the LEED technical output driven by this Group goes through committee and is ultimately available for all project teams if/when approved. If you have User Group specific questions I am the program lead so please feel free to contact me directly: eneagle@usgbc.org. Best, Emily

Gaston Viau 31 weeks 11 hours ago

Co-Founder & Overseas Project Coordinator, GEBCO International

Hi. What happened with this group? Is it still on? Will the group publish any document with experiences to share with other usgbc members?

Laura Steinbrink 31 weeks 1 day ago

Principal, HLMS Sustainability Solutions

Is there any update on the progress of this user group by way of reports, findings, etc.?

Alicia Silva Villanueva 2 years 18 weeks ago

CEO, Revitaliza Consultores

We are working with several manufacturing facilities in Mexico and Peru We would Love to be part of this group how can we join I think our international experience can add.

Helene Grosvenor 2 years 22 weeks ago

Northeast Collaborative Architects

This goal of greening the manufacturing process seems hard to reach unless you develop alternative compliance paths. If manufacturing could lead in this effort, then the rest would follow.

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