



Green Building as an Economic Engine

Fact: In 2005, the green building market stood at \$10 billion. Today, it has increased eight-fold and now stands at \$85 billion and growing, even during the economic downturn. By 2016, it's expected to range between 48 and 55 percent.

This embrace of healthy, efficient and high performance building is now a major segment of the construction industry.

“Green construction has passed the tipping point (acceptability and practice) notably in the non-residential marketplace,” said Harvey Bernstein, vice president, Industry Insights & Alliances for McGraw-Hill Construction (MHC) in Washington D.C. . Over a third of the construction industry (36 percent of architects, engineers and contractors) reported having a green job in 2011. Nearly 45 percent expect to have one in 2014. A national study funded by the [Institute for Market Transformation](#) and University of North Carolina found that energy-efficient houses with an Energy Star rating were **32 percent less likely** to go into default than comparable homes without that rating.

2013 Green Building Market Activity in Illinois

- Illinois' green building industry is estimated to employ more than **14 million people** and gross more than **\$106 billion** in annual revenue based on information from USGBC member companies headquartered in Illinois.
- 14 local governments in Illinois have enacted LEED-based green building policies and initiatives.
- 17 registered or certified LEED buildings owned or occupied by state government.
- Illinois ranks 7th nationally in total number of commercial buildings that are LEED-certified and pursuing LEED certification.
- Illinois features more than 374 million square feet of certified green building space.
- 290 LEED registered and certified homes.
- Five developments soon to be certified by LEED for Neighborhood Development impacting more than 5,300 acres. The Town of Normal, IL boasts the Uptown Renewal Project which is the closest LEED-Neighborhood Development project to completion.

A potential shortage of qualified workers familiar with and skilled in low-impact, high performance building is expected to hit as early as 2014. States including Michigan and New York are working with collaboration between community colleges, technical colleges and apprenticeships to provide workers academic instruction and on-the-job training.



Government leadership and policy initiatives can play an important role in making Illinois an even more important state for businesses leading in the emergent green economy. We at USGBC-Illinois are a resource for you. Contact us at 312-245-8300, info@usgbc-illinois.org or www.usgbc-illinois.org.

*The Illinois Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council supports **5 branches** across the state representing over **1,200 members**. Together, these chapters serve as the premier forum for green building practices in the state, providing leadership, education, advocacy and resources, as well as programs, events and networking opportunities for the green building industry and the community at large.*

Sources:

2013 Dodge Construction Green Outlook

“2012 Greening of Corporate America”, Mc Graw-Hill Construction & Siemens

“Lifting All Boats”, Electrical Contractor-March 2013

“Green Construction Industry Shortages”, McGraw-Hill Construction, 2012

Illinois: 2012 Green Building Market Activity, U.S Green Building Council

“Home Energy Efficiency and Mortgage Risks”, 2013, the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Center for Community Capital](#) and the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

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