

Nevada Chapter Overview

By Steve Rypka, LEED AP

The Nevada Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council

has come a long way in a few short years. Our membership has grown exponentially as green building takes hold in the state.

Our progressive green building tax incentives are helping to hasten the change toward more environmentally responsible construction practices. Nevada now has several LEED certified green buildings, including the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences in Incline Village, rated Platinum; the Patagonia Distribution Center in Reno, rated Gold; and three other certified projects - the Tate Snyder Kimsey design studio in Henderson, the Lied Animal Campus, and the Telecommunications Building at the College of Southern Nevada.

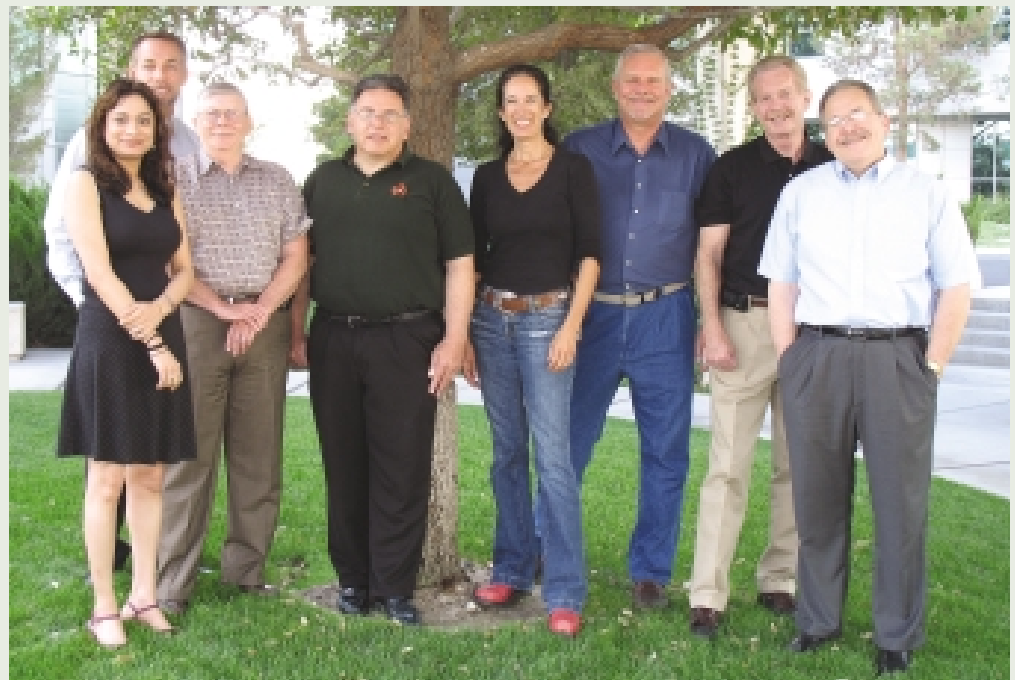
An incredible number of additional LEED registered projects are under development, including some of the largest green building projects in the world. Some notable examples include MGM's Project CityCenter in the heart of the strip; the Molasky Corporate Center, which is nearing completion downtown and is aiming for Gold certification; and the Springs Preserve with several buildings expected to gain Platinum status.

The mixed-use development of Sullivan Square, at the 215 curve, is a project with a vision for sustainable community represented at every level. Another mixed-use project, Union Park, has been selected to participate in the LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot program.

On the residential front, there are several projects registered in the pilot phase of the LEED for Homes system. From The Enchantment Way in Las Vegas to Job's Peak Cottages in Gardnerville, these projects are at the forefront of the residential green building movement. In addition, Pulte Homes recently announced that all of the approximately 1,200 homes in their new Reverence community

in Summerlin will be included in the LEED for Homes pilot program.

Las Vegas even has its own source of responsibly harvested stone that provides exquisitely beautiful counter tops. USGBC member company Vegas Rock operates a local quarry near Goodsprings and their operations are so green their products have been awarded a "Cradle to Cradle" Silver certification by McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry. Every bit of stone from their quarry goes to beneficial use, they recycle the water used in their cutting operations and nothing goes to waste. This is the first mining operation in the country to achieve this certification, a significant achievement.



2007 Board of Directors: From left to right, Deepika Padam, Kenneth Smith, Michael Crowe, Richard Warren, Pamela Vilkin, Steve Rypka, Glenn Trowbridge, Ron Scarnecchia. Not pictured: Zach Broyles.

The U.S. Green Building Council - Nevada Chapter is proud of our members and the major contributions they are making to improve our community. Our chapter membership is diverse and includes government agencies, utilities, developers, manufacturers, suppliers, designers, architects, engineers, consultants, realtors, financiers, insurers, contractors, non-profits, educational facilities and others. There's a place for you at the table. Please consider joining the U.S. Green Building Council - Nevada Chapter and help us shape the future of the built environment in our state. <<

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