

# CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY 2010

go green  
missouri

## Green Building

In the United States, buildings:

- ☘ Represent 40% of our primary energy use and 40% of all carbon emissions
- ☘ Account for 14% of our water usage
- ☘ Generate 170 million tons of building-related construction and demolition debris

Green buildings – those designed, constructed, renovated or operated in an ecological and resource efficient manner – decrease operating costs, increase building value, improve return on investment and improve occupant productivity. And an upfront investment of 2% in green building design, on average, results in life cycle savings of 20% of the total construction costs – more than 10 times the initial investment.

Currently 45 states have some sort of LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System initiatives including legislation, executive orders, resolutions, ordinances, policies, and incentives. 25 states have legislation or executive orders requiring LEED certification for state-owned and/or state-funded buildings

## GREEN BUILDING PRIORITIES

- ☘ **HB 1667 - Sustainable Construction and Energy Independence – Green State Buildings**  
Requires all major state-funded new construction building projects over 5,000 sq/ft achieve two globes using the Green Globes Rating System or achieve LEED Silver certification. A third-party verification system provides a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions, ensuring that buildings are constructed as intended.

House Bill 1667 – Support. Sponsor: Rep Margo McNeil

- ☘ **SB 634 - Residential Green Building Tax Credit**  
Provides a state income tax credit for homes built to LEED or National Association of Home Builders green residential standards. Credit ranges from 45 cents to \$1.15 per square foot depending on the level of certification achieved. The credit is fully transferable and non-refundable and will be issued on a first-to-file, first-to-receive basis. Assisting homebuyers and homebuilders with some of the additional "first costs" associated with green building will stimulate the homebuilding industry, putting people back to work in Missouri.

Senate Bill 634 – Support. Sponsor: Sen David Pearce

- ☘ **Green Schools Caucus**  
Green Schools Caucus is a nationwide effort to encourage and support the formation of a green schools caucus in every state legislature. The caucus is meant to serve as catalyst for legislators to coordinate, educate and reach out to colleagues and constituents about benefits of green schools. 20% of America goes to school every day, all of whom will benefit from healthier, safer and greener learning environments. A green school can often save \$100,000 in operational costs per year -- that's enough to hire two new teachers, buy 200 new computers or purchase 5,000 new textbooks.

Caucus chairs in Missouri House of Representatives are Rep Margo McNeil and Rep Shane Schoeller

The US Green Building Council-St. Louis Regional Chapter works to initiate, develop and accelerate the implementation of green building concepts, technologies and principles that promote environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. For more information, please email [usgbc-stl@mobot.org](mailto:usgbc-stl@mobot.org).