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# Improving Conditions for Green Building Construction in North America

**QUEST 2012 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW**  
**November 18-21, 2012**



# Commission for Environmental Cooperation

- The CEC supports the cooperative environmental agenda of Canada, Mexico and the United States – the health of its citizens, climate change, and a low-carbon, **green economy**.
- In 2008, the CEC made specific recommendations to help make green building a standard practice throughout North America.
- In 2011, the CEC formed the Trilateral Green Building Task Force, comprising North American leaders from the green building industry, researchers, and government officials.
- The task force was charged with identifying opportunities to address obstacles to the construction of green buildings in North America.



## Improving Conditions for Green Building Construction in North America – Taskforce members

### USA

**Ann Edminster, *Design AVEnues* – Chair**

Robert Brooks, *ICC-ES Environmental Programs*

Sean Cahill, *Property Group Partners LLC*

Ryan Colker, *National Institute of Building Sciences*

### Canada

**Jonathan Westeinde, *Windmill Development Group* – Co-chair**

Ray Cole, *University of British Columbia*

Phil Jago, *Natural Resources Canada*

David Moses, *Moses Structural Engineers Inc.*

### Mexico

**Odón de Buen, *Energía, Tecnología y Educación* – Co-chair**

Jorge Diez de Bonilla, *VIVESI*

José Picciotto, *Picciotto Arquitectos*

Teresa Tattersfield Yarza, *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)*

César Ulises Treviño, *Consejo Mexicano de Edificación Sustentable*

### Ex-officio

Michael Calvert, *DFAIT*

Rodrigo Guarneros, *Secretaría de Economía*

Iván Islas, *Instituto Nacional de Ecología*



# Improving Conditions for Green Building Construction in North America

## Priorities and Tasks in 2012-2013

1. Green building financing
2. Workforce education & training
3. Re-densification
4. Energy efficiency benchmarking
5. Green building systems/programs in use across North America
6. Resource repository



## Improving Conditions for Green Building Construction in North America

### Financing

Research and development of a comprehensive model business case in support of innovative financial tools, at the national level, to overcome the barriers to market penetration of green building and sustainability retrofits.

### *Deliverables*

- Innovative financing models that address the needs of the different jurisdictions and governments across North America.
- Interviews with lenders, investors, governments, and real property sector stakeholders.



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### Workforce education & training

Identification of professional and workforce barriers and training gaps in the North American green building sector, present and future; and prioritized recommendations regarding actions the CEC can take to address these needs and barriers.

#### *Deliverables*

- Analysis of green building stakeholders, sectors and workforce groups in North America.
- Dynamics and trends for each sector and labor.
- Existing training/education initiatives, gaps and needs in North America, by country.



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**Energy efficiency benchmarking.** Continuing support for Mexico's effort to adapt the ENERGY STAR® benchmarking methodology.

**Systems and programs.** Development and publication of a comprehensive guide to green building systems and programs operating across North America (i.e., codes and standards, ratings, certifications, and other related initiatives).

**Repository.** Creation of a repository of research products and findings concerning the central importance of green building and eco-cities to greening the economy in North America.



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## Re-densification

Cost-benefit analysis of greening existing buildings and other densification measures in North America.

### *Deliverables*

- Comprehensive account of public-sector green building benefits -- social, environmental, and economic.
- Toolkit of policy pathways to support greening of existing buildings and other smart growth initiatives, and that clearly indicates how the pathways identified will be integrated into existing government programs.

