



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** AIA Board of Directors, Volunteer and Staff Leaders, USGBC Members  
**From:** The American Institute of Architects and U.S. Green Building Council  
**Date:** May 28, 2008

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Dear friends and colleagues:

In early May, AIA and USGBC's volunteer and staff leadership met to talk about how we could work together towards advancing our common goals related to the goal of carbon neutral buildings by the year 2030 and other sustainability issues.

As you all may know, USGBC's formative meeting took place in AIA's Board Room, and USGBC acknowledges and celebrates the leadership of AIA Committee On The Environment as a fundamental component of our organization's DNA as well as AIA's commitment to sustainability as expressed in its education and advocacy efforts. Our long history of collaboration, our shared heritage, and the volunteer leadership roles many AIA members play within USGBC make a stronger working relationship a natural.

Similarly, AIA acknowledges and celebrates the work that USGBC and its LEED program have done to move the sustainability and green building agenda forward. To that point, AIA's recently published study on green building rating systems found that LEED performed very well against the sustainability criteria examined.

In that spirit, AIA and USGBC's leadership have agreed to develop a strategic alliance towards how to jointly advance our shared goals, complementing existing collaborative activities which include continuing education, research, and the AIA-coordinated 2030 coalition.

Focusing in those areas where there is already strong collaboration, AIA and USGBC will create a strategic alliance and associated work plan in three main areas – advocacy, education and research. During the meeting, we identified at least 10 possible collaborative projects and we are certain that more will be identified in the future. The strategic alliance will include an annual leadership meeting, regular meetings between senior staff leadership, and existing efforts such as reciprocal sponsorship of USGBC's Greenbuild and AIA's annual convention.

Finally, both AIA and USGBC would like to recognize and applaud the tremendous working relationships that exist between USGBC and AIA local chapters – which have led to many wonderful examples of market transformation, and the advancement of the 2030 goals and sustainable design in communities around our nation.

Thank you so very much for your commitment and your individual leadership. We look forward to sharing our strategic alliance as it develops.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine W McEntee".

Christine McEntee  
Executive Vice President/CEO,  
The American Institute of Architects

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Richard Fedrizzi".

S. Richard Fedrizzi  
President, CEO & Founding Chairman,  
U.S. Green Building Council