

# 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

## Narrative of Priorities



The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to transforming the way our buildings are designed, constructed and operated around the world. At USGBC, we work with government, member businesses and allied organizations to support policies and programs that advance greener buildings and communities.

Backed by the strength of tools, community and research, we use direct advocacy, strategic partnerships, campaigns and engagement to drive development of standards, programs and regulations that enable a greener, more resilient and prosperous future.

The USGBC has 4 broad Advocacy **priorities**:

- **Government Leadership by example**
  - Past efforts include: HR 1617 - Green Building Resolution in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session filed by Rep. Mark Strama
  - Current strategy includes:
    - Continue to assert green building as a priority in Texas and make inroad relationships with moderate legislators
- **Private Sector market transformation**
  - Past efforts include: PACE adoption in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session
  - Current strategy includes:
    - emphasize green building as a driving force in the construction industry forward in terms of smart investment and value
    - Highlight green building as a driving force for economic development
- **Raising the bar on codes and regulations**
  - Past efforts include: HB 1736 which allowed the statewide adoption of the IECC 2015 code during 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. This was signed by the Governor and took effect this year.
- **Community-wide sustainability**
  - LEED for Neighborhood Development - Green neighborhoods are an integral part of the solution to the challenges that are especially acute in cities. USGBC has a Neighborhood Development Guide for addressing these challenges.
  - USGBC Texas supports local sustainability plans such as San Antonio's SA Tomorrow plan as well as civic leadership on Resilient City efforts in Dallas and El Paso

USGBC Texas is pursuing a **Green Schools Caucus** during this legislative session and targeting several legislators to co-chair this caucus. Green Schools Caucus will center around **three pillars** of a **green school**: **reduced** environmental impact & **costs**, **improved occupant health** & wellness, and **effective** environmental & sustainability **education**

Using these **priorities** and the strong voices of our advocates and partner organizations, we will carry the message of green building to our leaders at the Capitol in Austin.