2020 Annual Review
Reflecting on the achievements captured in this annual report, I am impressed by what we – the Council, its members and stakeholders – have achieved.

Although 2020 was the most uncertain and disruptive year I can remember, we made significant progress on our collective climate commitments. Led by the federal government, climate change policy and funding leaped forward as businesses publicly recognized climate risk and investments began to shift toward low carbon solutions.

The global pandemic caused seismic shifts in the economy when it emerged in March 2020, but climate change remained a top issue for Canadians through it all. If anything, an awareness of and action on climate heightened during the pandemic, resulting in positive impacts on the green building sector and new demands to “get on with business” during a very disruptive time. And that’s what we did.

At CaGBC, we quickly shifted online – from our day-to-day work to our annual conference, Building Lasting Change. While we missed the face-to-face interactions with our members and peers, we still connected and advanced on our strategic objectives by focusing on our four key pillars – green building, zero carbon, retrofits, and workforce development.

We drove innovation and the adoption of proven approaches to help Canada’s built environment to achieve its potential for greenhouse gas reductions. Initiatives like the Catalyst Forums, the Manufacturer’s Accelerator, and our ongoing Innovation Series provided opportunities for the sector to engage, connect, and inspire. Through certifications like LEED and Zero Carbon Building Standard, we helped buildings owners and operators reach their ESG goals while realizing the cost benefits of green building.

As part of the Council’s role to guide LEED and the ZCB Standard in the Canadian market, our staff and volunteer technical advisory groups helped advance new LEED v.4.1 Alternative Compliance Paths for Canadian projects. We also provided COVID-related guidance to LEED O+M users to support certification of office buildings with low occupancy caused by the pandemic.

On the zero-carbon front, we updated the ZCB Standard to balance better the rigour needed to reach zero with enough flexibility to drive widespread market adoption. Kingsett’s 40 King Street West project became the first building certified under the new version and our largest ZCB Standard certification to date.
We also united the sector to support a green recovery, with our advocacy efforts calling for unprecedented investment in green building. Our Canada’s Green Building Engine report showed how progressive policies and investment in green building could help Canada reach its 2030 carbon targets and put Canadians and the economy back to work.

The green building sector’s potential for re-igniting the economy was reflected in government announcements, including a $2 billion investment from the Canada Infrastructure Bank to advance building retrofits in the commercial and public sectors; updates to the Greening Government Strategy that prioritized zero carbon in government-owned and leased buildings; and, updates to the Climate Action Plan which included significant investments in the low-carbon economy.

As these investments spur demand for zero carbon building and retrofits, the building sector must be ready to deliver carbon solutions at scale. In 2020, we released two reports on low-carbon skills gaps – one on Alberta trades and the other looking at engineers, architects and renewable energy specialists. We also launched Workforce 2030, a coalition to fast-track the workforce needed to build a low-carbon Ontario. With over 50 participants, the coalition’s growth demonstrates the need to address skills training gaps while growing a more equitable and diverse workforce.

There is no question that 2020 was a challenging year for CaGBC. We suffered the loss of a dear colleague, and like many other organizations, experienced disruptions to our work and our personal lives. However, our success is a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and members who remain committed to our shared mission. The expectations have never been higher for the green building industry to deliver on Canada’s ambitious climate targets. As we continue to move into this critical decade for climate action, I am confident there will be many more wins ahead for us and the sector as a whole.

Thomas Mueller
President & CEO
Canada Green Building Council
The Work

This past year we continued to work to our three-year Strategic Framework to achieve the Council’s goals:

**Equip the building sector to become a leader in Canada’s low-carbon future**


- Launched Workforce 2030, a new coalition designed to accelerate low-carbon workforce development, which now boasts over 50 participants. Focused on Ontario, the coalition’s model is now being explored by other regions.

- Brought the Investor Confidence Project to Canada, as a way to remove barriers to investment in low-carbon retrofit projects.
  - Worked with partners to introduce ICP and the related Investor Ready Energy Efficiency certifications to the Canada Infrastructure Bank – which recently chose to leverage this certification for the commercial stream of its Building Retrofits Initiative.
  - Announced the first Canadian IREE certifications: the Woodgreen Retrofit Project and 301 Prudential Drive
Be a catalyst for accelerating building innovation, market uptake and industry capacity

- Supported building owners around LEED O+M certifications and re-occupancy of office buildings following COVID-19, including new guidance and direction.
- Worked to ensure the LEED v4.1 addendum included new Alternative Compliance Paths to support Canadian projects, including:
  - A new pilot zEPI ACP that prioritizes energy consumption over cost; and
  - A BC Step Code ACP for BC-based projects going beyond code.
- Launched a new Manufacturer’s Accelerator to encourage adoption of life cycle assessment (LCA) data, environmental product declarations (EPD) and Health Product Declarations (HPD).
- Released Canada’s Green Building Engine, a report showing that through government investment and proactive policy, green building could achieve 1.5 million jobs, eliminate 53 million tonnes of carbon, and grow the economy by $150 billion in GDP by 2030.
- Supported energy benchmarking programs in Nova Scotia and the City of Winnipeg.
- Revamped 26 LEED courses and experimented with new formats to meet member needs.

Ensure CaGBC’s long-term effectiveness and viability to support market transformation

- Advocated for green recovery priorities which reflected in announcements from the federal government including:
  - $2 billion from the Canada Infrastructure Bank to advance building retrofits;
  - Updates to the Greening Government Strategy that prioritizes zero carbon in government owned and leased buildings; and,
  - The new Climate Action Plan which includes significant investments in the low-carbon economy.
- Grew the Catalyst level of membership to better support the innovators who help shape green building in Canada.
- Expanded CaGBC services to include verification and became a qualified Quality Assurance Assessor for IREE certification.
LEED impact in Canada (2005 - 2020)

Energy savings of 25.5 million eMWh which is enough to power 867,000 homes in Canada for a full year.

Water savings totalling 45 billion litres, enough to fill 18,000 Olympic swimming pools.

Recycling over 3.82 million tonnes of construction/demolition waste, which is enough to fill the entire Roger’s Centre in Toronto 15 times.

A 4.9 million CO₂e tonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions which equates to taking over 1,000,000 cars off the roads for a year.

401,000 sq. metres of green roofs, enough to cover 265 hockey arenas.
## LEED in Canada

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<th>Province</th>
<th>Certifications</th>
<th>Registrations</th>
<th>Total Projects</th>
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<tr>
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<td>LEED v4 Certifications</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEED v4 Registrations</td>
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Impact and Engagement

- 24 Certifications to date, evenly split between Design and Performance
- 50+ projects registered

Zero Carbon in Canada

- 5,270 people took a course or attended an event
- 26,454 education hours delivered

CAGBC Members

- 1,010 corporations
- 14,068 individuals

Education

- 110 signatories to the Call for a Green Recovery
- 50+ participants in Workforce 2030

Campaigns

- 50+ projects registered
The Equal by 30 Campaign works to advance the participation of women in the clean energy transition and close the gender gap by taking concrete action. CaGBC is a signatory and committed to advancing opportunities for women through inclusive approaches to hiring and representation.
Thank you to our Members, Board, Committees and Volunteers who contributed to CaGBC’s 2020 success. To become a member, click here and visit CaGBC’s website for more information.

Thank You

CaGBC is supporting standards and programs that advance our common cause: