

Go Green Illinois
July 11, 2017 meeting
Green Building

Speaker: Katie Kaluzny, US Green Building Council, IL

Founded in 2002, the USGBC IL (<https://www.usgbc-illinois.org/>) educates people to do LEED Certification and runs the LEED program. They have about 1,000 members. There are about 5,000 LEED accredited professionals, and they hold about 500 trainings each year.

From 2013-15, Illinois was the #1 state with the most LEED certified square footage per capita. It dropped to #3 in 2016. There are 1.6 million square feet of project certified daily. In Illinois, many large buildings have LEED certification (Merchandise Mart and Field Museum, for example.) New buildings are also LEED certified, like Testa Produce and the Method plant in Pullman.

Sustainable buildings are in demand by people, and the state has policies and incentives to encourage sustainable construction. More information is in the presentation (find it [here.](#))

Chicago has a sustainable development policy. There are benchmarking ordinances in Chicago and Evanston. These provide data on energy and water use for large buildings.

USGBC does a lot of mythbusting. Barriers to green building are that people think:

1. It costs too much.
2. It takes more time.
3. Green building = technology.

To help bust these myths, they have many educational program, including the 5th Green Built Homes Tour on July 22 and 23. <https://www.greenbuilthometour.org/>
Please attend and help spread the word about the home tour.

Homes on the tour must have a third party certification. The certifications are:

1. HERS rating (energy efficiency measure)
2. Energy Star Certified Homes (for new construction; rates for energy, water and indoor air quality)
3. DOE Net Zero Energy Home
4. LEED for homes (there are 8 categories this rates)
5. Passive House (<http://www.phius.org/home-page>)
6. Green Star (for remodels and new construction, has 7 components)

Some tools that you can use to make buildings more sustainable:

Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Green Pro Directory (see usgbc-illinois.org)

Energy Efficiency Ambassadors – USGBC has trained 20 volunteers on smart meters, smart meter connected devices, Com Ed’s real time pricing program, energy audits and assessments. They go to different communities and talk to groups about energy efficiency. They are looking for groups/venues to present.

Katie will be hosting an energy audit party at her home through Elevate Energy. This type of program enables you to learn more and become a trusted messenger in your community. She also mentioned the Mighty House Radio Show

USGBC is looking for volunteers to serve as energy efficiency ambassadors. They will come to green fairs and share best practices.

New ideas in green building coming up:

- Benchmarking challenges.

- Product/material health impacts

- Biomimicry/resilience

- Health and wellness

- Green Build 2018 will be held in Chicago in Nov –volunteers needed

Questions from audience:

1. Which rating system to use? It depends on your goals. Some architects are more familiar with certain systems.
2. Is landscape taken into consideration? Yes, under LEED you can get credits for sustainable landscaping. There’s also a sustainable sites certification program.
3. Is behavior considered? Most ratings are for new construction, and don’t take operations into consideration. Training and education is important to make sure these homes are truly sustainable. You can adapt these systems for your own use to make existing homes more efficient. You can also use a green remodeling guide for work on existing homes.
4. Is Elevate Energy still funded to do energy audits? Unknow, but go to <http://www.elevateenergy.org/home-savings/energy-impact-illinois/> for info.

Other updates:

A representative from New Trier High School talked about their sustainability initiatives. They are planning an addition on the east campus that will include green roofs. They started a food compost pilot program this past school year at the Northfield campus cafeteria, and plan to roll it out as a full program for the 2017-18 school year. They are hoping to expand to the Winnetka campus after that. They are working on increasing energy efficiency of existing buildings, both as a cost savings measure and to model behavior for students. They have added water bottle filling stations, which has decreased plastic water bottle use, and introduced green event guidelines.

There was a question about the lack of safe bike/ped access since repaving the road adjacent to the Northfield Campus. This was done by the County, and the shoulders

are unpaved. Members suggested that NT contact the county and invite them to visit during school commute time to see the problem. It was also suggested that they get students involved in seeking solutions, possibly engineering students as well as sustainability club.

Peggy McGrath from Go Green Oak Park gave an overview of the status of preemption regarding pesticides. She asked member groups to get their municipalities to sign onto a resolution asking the state to enable home rule municipalities to regulate pesticides. Check <https://gogreenoakpark.wordpress.com/> for a copy of the resolution, and for more information on green lawn care.