

Fifteen years ago a small group of volunteers came together around a common interest in sustainable design and building to start Delaware Valley Green Building Council. The goal to educate and advocate for green building practices across the region unified the founding group of contractors and architects, engineers and policy advocates – many of whom are still engaged with our work today.

Thanks to their work, DVGBC became one of the largest and most successful chapters in the USGBC network, and has played an important role in growing the green building movement locally and beyond. Starting in 2006, DVGBC spearheaded and coordinated the Green Advantage Training program, providing green building education for thousands of designers and builders across the country. As the host chapter in 2013, DVGBC helped make Greenbuild in Philadelphia among the biggest and most impactful conferences in USGBC's history. During the past decade and a half, thousands of members have shared their time, energy, and enthusiasm to make our region better.



Since 2002, green building has grown from niche to a multi-billion dollar industry that is increasingly mainstream. During that time, advances in climate science have also underscored the need for a much more rapid transition to a low-carbon, sustainable built environment. We are committed to supporting the codes, standards, materials, and practices that improve the built environment. This includes LEED and USGBC's companion programs, as well as complimentary green building rating systems such as Passive House, the Living Building Challenge, and Enterprise Green Communities. We also are now increasingly focused, through the launch of the Philadelphia 2030 District, on the many existing buildings that don't yet have above-code rating systems in their sights, but are making important commitments to efficiency by benchmarking and reducing energy and water use.

Like our founders, we are unified in our goal to advance sustainable building solutions to match the scale of the challenges we face and we know that we'll need to use all of the tools at our disposal to make this happen. Today I am excited to announce that we are beginning a new chapter - with a new brand and name - that reflects our history and aligns better with our current work and future aspirations. We are committed practitioners, passionate advocates, and dedicated volunteers; we are **Green Building United**.

Our mission to foster transformative impact in our communities through green building education and advocacy remains unchanged. We will continue as an active member of the USGBC chapter community and will further develop new partnerships to advance our work in large commercial buildings, affordable housing, net-zero, and regenerative building across the same region we serve now.

The work of local organizations is critical in the absence of federal leadership on climate and sustainability. The collective efforts of our community have gotten us where we are today, and your contributions make our mission ambitious, yet achievable. By giving to Green Building United, you are sustaining an organization with a strong track record of success on climate action, a healthy environment, and a thriving local economy. As an independent non-profit organization, Green Building United counts on financial support from individuals and companies whose generosity makes up more than 80 percent of our operating budget. Please consider making a gift to help us grow our impact and support our continued success in 2018 and beyond.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Dews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alex Dews

p.s. We invite you to celebrate with us at our Holiday Party on December 14th. Visit our new website for details.

