

Green Building United appoints Richard Freeh as new Executive Director

Freeh will lead the organization's transformative impact throughout the region and drive sustainability advocacy for the built environment

PHILADELPHIA, July 15, 2022 – Green Building United (GBU) announces the appointment of its new Executive Director, Richard Freeh, an accomplished clean energy and climate policy change agent with over a decade of experience working with local governments and institutions. This selection will propel GBU, the local aligned chapter with the U.S. Green Building Council, further toward its commitment toward promoting the development of buildings and communities that are sustainable, healthy for inhabitants, resilient, and cost effective through education, advocacy, and strategic initiatives.

The search to identify the next leader of Green Building United launched in 2021 with a process guided by a Board Transition Committee and Scion Executive Search. The process included participation from GBU's staff and partners and yielded an applicant pool of over 60 qualified candidates. Freeh's combination of experience with climate action and equitable decarbonization efforts at local and national levels, as well as his social justice-driven advocacy work, positioned him as the clear choice in driving the organization's mission forward.

“Rich is a passionate and accomplished leader in this field, and we are extremely confident that he will bring an infusion of energy to Green Building United,” said Susan Lowry, Board Chair. “As we begin this next chapter with his leadership, we are excited to strengthen the green building movement and continue the impactful work we're known for throughout the region.”

Freeh transitions to Green Building United from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, where he served as Programs Director for Climate Strategy and Network Team Director. In these roles he led efforts to document the evolution of local climate practice through workshops with local government practitioners, NGOs, and funders, and in centering racial equity and anti-racism into climate planning. He has also held roles with the City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability and the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia. Freeh earned a BA from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a certified Project Management Professional through Temple University.

“We're at an inflection point in our region – as we navigate through public health challenges, changes in the way we work, and upcoming major elections, Green Building United has the opportunity to raise the awareness of the vital role buildings play in our health, safety, and well-being,” said Rich Freeh. “I'm excited to grow the conversation and find new ways to support our community.”

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About Green Building United

Green Building United (founded in 2001, as Delaware Valley Green Building Council) is a member-driven, mission-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are a chapter of the U.S. Green Building

Council, and have active Passive House and Living Future Communities. We serve the greater Philadelphia area, Lehigh Valley, and the State of Delaware (see a map of our region). Green Building United convenes building industry and sustainability professionals with an interest in, or a commitment to, improving the built environment for the benefit of the entire region. Our work impacts more than 1.5 million Philadelphia residents and 4.5 million in our region. We achieve our mission through the generous support of sustaining partners, individual members, donors, and funders. With more than 620 members and a dedicated network of volunteers, we are excited to see our impact continue to grow in the region.

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