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# **Green Construction**

*An introduction to  
a changing industry*

Alison Dykstra

**Also by the Author**

*Construction Project Management: A Complete Introduction*  
*LEED Certification: An Introduction to Certifying a Green Building*

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# Helpful Web Addresses

*apps2.eere.energy.gov/wind/windexchange* – U.S. Department of Energy WINDEXchange—provides publications, webinars, podcasts, maps of wind resources, and a locator map of wind education and training programs in the United States.

*www.azbex.com/category/green-renewable-energy* – Arizona Builders Exchange compilation of green and renewable energy news

*http://conference.resnet.us* – Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Building Performance Conference on home energy ratings, existing home retrofits, building codes, and energy policy.

*www.greenadvantage.org* – Green Advantage—an ANSI-approved training and certification for green builders and remodelers that is unaffiliated with a trade association and not linked to its own building rating system.

*http://greenspec.buildinggreen.com* – BuildingGreen—publishes the GreenSpec Directory listing of green products with manufacturer's information, sponsors Environmental Building News, which features articles, product reviews, and other information.

*www.nfrc.org* – National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC)—a nonprofit organization that provides energy performance information, education, and certified ratings.

*https://www.kaplancleantech.com* – Kaplan—for-profit training programs in clean energy.

*www.earthday.org* – Earth Day Network (EDN)—works with over 50,000 partners in 192 countries to broaden, diversify, and mobilize the environmental movement; Earth Day is the largest civic observance in the world.

*www.greenJobs.net* – Green Jobs Network—a job search engine that links workers up with environmental or social responsibility jobs.

*www.greentrainingusa.com* – Green Training USA—a for-profit training program that offers online programs.

*www.NAHBgreen.org* – National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)—green building, remodeling, and development training programs to prepare builders for work in green construction.

*www.rateitgreen.com* – Rate It Green—a directory, network, and resource for green builders.

*www.aament.org* – American Architectural Manufacturers Association (AAMA)—a trade association for the fenestration industry: windows, doors, skylights, and curtain walls.

*www.abc.org* – Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)—a trade organization that represents open-shop (merit/non-union) construction firms that work primarily in the industrial and commercial sectors.

*www.sfi.program.org* – Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI)—a nonprofit organization responsible for maintaining, overseeing, and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program.

*www.acca.org* – Air-Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA)—a trade association for individuals and businesses in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).

*www.aecdaily.com* – AEC Daily—a developer of free online education, building product information, and industry news.

*www.aeecenter.org* – Association of Energy Engineers (AEE)—an international membership organization with 95 chapters in the United States; sponsors multiple training programs and certificates in various aspects of green construction.

*www.agc.org* – Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)—a membership organization for contractors working in the commercial sector of the industry; they have over 90 chapters around the country and offer training and a Green Contractor Certification (see *www.greenconstructionatwork.com*).

*www.agc.org/cs/environment* – Association of General Contractors of America (AGC) Contractors Environmental Conference—provides information on multiple environmental issues; past conferences have included topics such as green paving technologies, low impact development, estimating and bidding green projects, and preparing a work force for green projects.

*www.ahrinet.org* – Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) trade association.

*www.ahridirectory.org* – Directory of Certified Product Performance—developed by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) and Air-Conditioning Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI); a listing of residential and small commercial mechanical equipment.

*www.airbarrier.org* – Air Barrier Association (ABAA)—an association that provides information on air barriers and building envelopes.

*www.ases.org* – American Solar Energy Society (ASES), affiliated with the International Solar Energy Society (ISES; see *www.ises.org*)—provides information on renewable energy issues worldwide, has a network of student and young professional ISES members, publishes a scientific journal (Solar Energy) and issues reports and newsletters on the industry; has independent chapters (e.g., NorCal Solar *www.noricalsolar.org*).

*www.ases.org/solar-today-magazine* – Solar Today—subscription-based magazine also available online, from the American Solar Energy Society (ASES).

*www.ashrae.org* – American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)—a source of technical standards for the HVAC industry.

*www.astm.org* – ASTM International (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials)—develops standards for a wide range of products including its list of Sustainability Standards.

*www.awci.org* – Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry (AWCI)—trade association for wall and ceiling contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors that offers resources including magazines, newsletters, and product catalogs.

*www.awea.org* – American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)—national trade association that provides information on wind energy, publishes a membership directory, and hosts the annual WINDPOWER conference.

*www.bacweb.org* – International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC)—a union representing bricklayers, stone and marble masons, cement masons, plasterers, tile-setters, terrazzo and mosaic workers, and pointers/cleaners/caulkers.

*www.biomasscenter.org* – Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC)—a nonprofit organization that works to advance community-scale biomass, whose website includes a resource library and an extensive glossary.

*www.bls.gov* – Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)—part of the U.S. Department of Labor; includes information on renewable energy and job opportunities in the field.

*www.bluegreenalliance.org* – BlueGreen Alliance—an association between unions (“blue collar”) and environmental (“green”) groups, offering multiple resources and training through the GreenPOWER program; sponsors the annual Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference.

*www.bpi.org* – Building Performance Institute (BPI)—develops standards for home energy retrofit projects and offers credentials from entry-level to skilled.

*www.buildinggreen.com* – Building Green—a membership organization that offers news (Environmental Building News), a blog, a product database, and more.

*www.buildingtrades.com* – Building Trades Association—provides various services for contractors such as online job postings, insurance, and a directory of contractors.

*www.builditgreen.org* – Build It Green—a nonprofit membership organization in California that sponsors a system for assessing and verifying green residential buildings; provides professional certification training.

*www.bx.org* – Builders Exchange of Central Ohio.

*www.bxkentucky.com* – Builders Exchange of Kentucky.

*www.c2ccertified.org* – Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute—a nonprofit organization that manages the Cradle to Cradle Certified Product Standard, which provides criteria and requirements for products.

*www.carpenters.org* – United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC)—large building-trades unions, with a green training program; see its website to locate regional councils and training centers.

*www.carpet-rug.org* – Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)—a trade association for the carpet industry, offers education and resources, testing, and labeling for carpet products.

*www.careerschools.org* – Careers Schools—directory of professional, trade, vocational schools, and colleges. Users can browse by state or by program of study.

*www.cfinstallers.com* – Certified Floorcovering Installers Association (CFI)—a trade association for floor installers, offering professional certifications and hands-on training courses.

*www.cleantechnica.com* – CleanTechnica—an energy website with posts on solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewables, plus reports and videos.

*www.conferencealerts.com* – Conference Alerts—a comprehensive list of worldwide academic conferences, where one can view conferences by date, topic, and country and subscribe to a service to receive alerts regarding conferences of interest.

*www.constructionpronet.com* – ConstructionPro Network—a for-profit training company.

*www.contractorcollege.org* – Painting and Decorating Contractors of America's Contractor College—an industry training center offering green training; see also *www.pdca.org*

*www.csinet.org* – Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)—membership organization that develops standards and formats for managing construction information, and offers professional education and certification; chapters are nationwide.

*www.doe.gov* – U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)—provides information on green construction, including information on energy incentive programs in each state (see also *www.energy.gov*).

*www.dsireusa.org* – Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE)—an excellent source of information on state, local, federal, and utility financial and other incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

*www.econtc.com* – Energy Conservation Training Company—a for-profit training program in green building.

*www.emagazine.com* – E/The Environmental Magazine—published by the Earth Action Network, covering a broad range of environmental and related topics.

*www.energy.gov* – U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)—information on energy incentive programs in each state; see also *www.doe.gov*

*www.energy.gov/eere/geothermal* – U.S. Department of Energy Geothermal Technologies Office.

*www.energy.sourceguides.com* – Energy Source Guides—a list of renewable energy trade associations by state.

*www.energystar.gov* – Energy Star—a program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that helps consumers identify energy-efficient products, such as washing machines and dryers.

*www.energystar.gov/buildings* – Energy Star Certified Buildings and (Industrial) Plants—the U.S. government's energy rating program for residential and commercial buildings, developed by the Department of Energy and the EPA; includes an online tool that focuses on energy performance.

*www.epa.gov* – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—sponsors the Energy Star and WaterSense programs; its website has a map with links to local EPA activities.

*www.epa.gov/watersense* – EPA WaterSense—labels products that conserve water (such as low-flush toilets and motion-activated faucets) and seeks to educate consumers about water efficiency.

*www.everblue.edu* – Everblue—a for-profit training program in green building.

*www.fcica.com* – Flooring Contractors Association (FCICA)—a trade association representing the commercial floor covering industry; provides newsletters, magazine, webinars, and floor covering training.

*www.fscus.org* – Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)—a third-party certification program in sustainable forestry, including ecological functions, old-growth forests, plantations, restoration, native habitat, indigenous people's rights, and sound management for timber production.

*www.geo-energy.org* – Geothermal Energy Association—a trade association of companies supporting the expanded use of geothermal energy, with a list of member companies, with addresses and contact names.

*www.geoexchange.org* – Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium—a trade association that promotes the manufacture, design, and installation of geothermal systems; its website offers a directory of contractors/service providers by state.

*www.gpro.org* – Green Professional (GPRO)—offers training in green professional building skills, with programs in several states.

*www.green-colleges.com* – Making a Difference College Guide—provides information on green classes and degrees.

*www.greenbuildermag.com* – Green Builder—magazine and blog focusing on green building and sustainable development; interesting archived articles are available online.

*www.greenbuildexpo.org* – GreenBuild Conference & Exposition—USGBC's annual GreenBuild International Conference and Expo.

*www.greenbuildingadvisor.com* – GreenBuilding Advisor—online resource for building green homes; its website offers product guides, discussion forums, videos, and multiple blogs.

*www.greenbuildinginsider.com* – Green Builder Insider—provides information on energy efficiency, certifications including LEED, case studies, technologies and products, reports and studies, legal matters and legislation, international happenings, and competitions and awards.



*www.greenconstructionatwork.com* – Green Contractor Certification program of the Associated General Contractors (see *www.agc.org*).

*www.greenexpo365.com* – GreenExpo365—a virtual trade show and online community focused on green building, sponsoring “live” events, opportunities to chat live with green building professionals; its website has useful links, blogs, and other information.

*www.greenhomeguide.org* – Green Home Guide—a site sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council that enables the user to ask questions and get opinions from others in the industry.

*www.greenjobsconference.org* – Good Jobs Green Jobs National Conference—annual conference sponsored by the Blue Green Alliance Foundation.

*www.greenplumberstraining.org* – GreenPlumbers—part of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), a training and accreditation program that promotes the use of energy efficient and water-saving technologies; see also *www.iampo.org*

*www.greenroofs.org* – Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC)—a trade association that offers a range of services and information on green roofs and courses in over 30 cities nationwide.

*www.greenroofs.com* – Green Roofs—an online news media organization focusing on green roofs.

*www.greenseal.org* – Green Seal—a third-party certifier of a variety of building products (paints, adhesives, lamps, chillers, windows, cleaners, and more), considering product impacts over the entire life cycle of a product.

*www.greensource.construction.com* – GreenSource Magazine: The Magazine of Sustainable Design—a publication available in hard and digital editions, covering topics of interest to builders including green building, LEED projects, case studies, and more; videos, products, and features offer a substantial amount of helpful information.

*www.gwec.net* – Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)—members include all major wind turbine manufacturers; provides news, information, publications, and job listings for wind farm and wind energy jobs worldwide.

*www.hbi.com* – Home Builders Institute (HBI)—an organization associated with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB; see *www.nahb.org*).

*www.healthybuilding.net* – Healthy Building Network (HBN)—an organization founded to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals in buildings; provides research and information on materials and sponsors the Pharos Project database that identifies health hazards in building materials (see also *www.pharosproject.net*).

*www.homeenergy.org/HETG* – Home Energy—online and print magazines providing practical information on residential energy efficiency, performance, comfort, and affordability. It has a useful website with links to training programs.

*www.homeinnovation.com* – Home Innovations Research Labs—associated with National Association of Home Builders (NAHB; see *www.nahb.org*).

*www.hydro.org* – National Hydro Association (NHA)—a nonprofit working to develop hydropower.

*www.hydropower.org* – International Hydropower Association (IHA)—created under the auspices of UNESCO, IHA advocates for sustainable hydropower; its blog has up-to-date information on what’s happening around the world in hydro.

*www.hydroreform.org* – Hydropower Reform Coalition—information on how dams and hydropower projects can be operated differently to reduce their adverse impacts.

*www.iampo.org* – International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)—publishes the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC), and Uniform Solar Energy Code (USEC); offers the Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement, a model code developed to standardize sustainable residential and commercial plumbing and mechanical systems; see also GreenPlumbers training and accreditation (*www.greenplumberstraining.org*).

*www.ibew.org* – International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)—a trade union that represents several hundred thousand workers; it provides green training, credentialing, and a jobs board.

*www.iccsafe.org* – International Green Construction Code (IgCC)—developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and adopted by many state and municipal governments for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency for homes, schools, and commercial buildings.

*www.ieci.org* – Independent Electrical Contractors Association (IEC)—a trade association for “merit shop” (non-union) electrical and systems contractors, with almost 3,000 member companies in 60 chapters throughout the United States; provides training, apprenticeships, and credentialing.

*www.ies.org* – Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES)—a trade organization of manufacturers of lighting products, lighting designers, electricians, building contractors, and individuals working in affiliated lighting fields; sponsors conferences and seminars and has a scholarship program.

*www.igshpa.okstate.edu* – International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA)—a nonprofit group supporting the ground-source heat pump industry with publications, information, research, and more.

*www.imaginesolar.com* – ImagineSolar—classroom and online courses in Austin TX.

*www.indeed.com* – Indeed—a job search engine.

*www.insulate.org* – Insulation Contractors Association of America (ICCA)—a trade organization for residential and commercial insulation installers.

*www.insulation.org* – National Insulation Association (NIA)—a trade association representing both union and non-union contractors, distributors, and manufacturers primarily in commercial and industrial construction; sponsors annual conventions and training programs; website has links to insulation associations around the country.

*www.insulators.org* – International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (AWWIU)—a trade association with updated apprenticeship training and information on green construction.

*www.irecusa.org* – Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)—a nonprofit that provides links to helpful databases, training providers, available incentives, and publishes multiple publications; in partnership with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), provides standards for solar and renewable energy training programs.

*www.ises.org* – International Solar Energy Society (ISES)—largest international solar organization, with members in more than 110 countries; advocates for the solar industry and provides education and outreach.

*www.living-future.org* – Living Building Challenge (LBC)—developed by the International Living Future Institute (previously called the International Living Building Institute).

*www.makanipower.com* – Makani Airborne Wind Turbine (AWT)—develops energy kites; owned by Google X.

*www.mcaa.org* – Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)—a trade organization for firms working in heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, plumbing, piping, and mechanical service; includes Mechanical Service Contractors of America, the Plumbing Contractors of America, the Manufacturer/Supplier Council, the Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation, and the National Certified Pipe Welding Bureau.

*www.mcaa.org/green* – Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Green Education—offers hour-long webinars for contractors working in green and sustainable mechanical construction, service, and plumbing.

*www.midwestrenew.org* – Midwest Renewable Energy Center—a nonprofit offering self-paced courses in solar energy and wind systems.

*www.monster.com* – Monster—a job search engine.

*www.nabcep.org* – North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)—offers professional certification in small wind Installation.

*www.nahb.org* – National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)—a trade and membership association that helps promote housing policies, with more than 100,000 members, and provides green training through some of its local builders associations.

*www.nahb.org/local\_association\_search\_form.aspx* – National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)—search form for local builders associations.

*www.naima.org* – North American Insulation Manufacturing Association (NAIMA)—a trade association with a useful website and information on sustainability and energy efficiency.

*www.nawic.org* – National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)—a membership organization that provides mentoring, technical information, education, and more to women involved in the construction industry.

*www.ncbeonline.com* – North Coast Builders Exchange, Santa Rosa, CA—a builders exchange with educational programs related to green construction.

*www.nccer.org* – National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)—educational affiliate of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC; *www.abc.org*), provides work-force development, including green technology credentialing.

*www.necanet.org* – National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)—a trade association providing advocacy, education, research, and standards development; with 119 chapters, NECA offers a variety of training and apprentice opportunities.

*www.norcalsolar.org* – NorCal Solar—Northern California chapter of American Solar Energy Society (ASES; *www.ases.org*).

*www.nrca.net* – National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)—a nonprofit association that represents all segments of the roofing industry; sponsors EnergyWise Roof Calculator Online, to evaluate thermal performance and energy costs; offers classes in rooftop photovoltaic systems.

*www.nrdc.org* – National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)—an environmental action group that, among other services, provides useful information on renewable energy systems; also see its Onearth magazine (*www.onearth.org*).

*www.nrdc.org/energy/renewables/biomass.asp*—NRDC website section on biomass.

[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov) – National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)—the primary research laboratory for DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and a good source of technical information and data on renewable energy.

[www.nrel.gov/biomass](http://www.nrel.gov/biomass) – NREL bioenergy research program—research program on bioenergy, produces biomass energy maps.

[www.nrep.org](http://www.nrep.org) – National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREP)—an organization of affiliates that provide professional training and recognition.

[www.onearth.org](http://www.onearth.org) – Onearth—a subscription-based magazine published by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC; [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)), covering a broad range of environmental topics including cities and transportation, science and technology, and more; offers free online newsletter, columns, and blogs.

[www.passivehouse.us](http://www.passivehouse.us) – Passive House Institute US (PHIUS)—a nonprofit organization that offers building and professional certifications; see also [www.Phius.org](http://www.Phius.org)

[www.pdca.org](http://www.pdca.org) – Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA)—a trade association for the coating and wall covering industry with standards, training, and advocacy; Contractor College is its training center and offers multiple programs on green aspects of the trade (see [www.contractorcollege.org](http://www.contractorcollege.org)).

[www.pge.com/pec](http://www.pge.com/pec) – Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Energy Center—sponsors free lectures and classes in energy conservation and green building techniques at various locations around the San Francisco Bay Area in California.

[www.pharosproject.net](http://www.pharosproject.net) – Pharos Project—a database from the Healthy Building Network (HBN) on the health and environmental hazards of building products and materials; its website lists products and rates product certifications.

[www.phccweb.org](http://www.phccweb.org) – Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC)—a trade association representing more than 3,500 contractor members; provides training opportunities and more.

[www.princetonreview.com/green.aspx](http://www.princetonreview.com/green.aspx) – Princeton Review—provides information on green college classes and degrees.

[www.regreenprogram.org](http://www.regreenprogram.org) – Green Residential Remodeling Program (REGREEN)—a resource for green home remodeling, developed by USGBC and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID); offers a REGREEN Trained Certificate.

[www.resnet.us](http://www.resnet.us) – Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET)—a nonprofit organization that developed the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) that measures and rates a home’s energy efficiency; trains energy raters and auditors.

*www.resnet.us/energy-rating* – Home Energy Rating System (HERS)—developed by the nonprofit Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET), HERS is used to measure and rate the energy efficiency of a home.

*www.rfci.com* – Resilient Floor Coverings Institute (RFC)—a trade association of resilient flooring manufacturers and suppliers.

*www.scsglobalservices.com* – SCS Global Systems—a third-party certification program that certifies a wide range of products from textiles to construction products; its website has a helpful list of certified products; certifies FloorScore (see *www.rfci.com*) and indoor air quality performance under the Indoor Advantage label.

*www.seia.org* – Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA)—a trade association with news, a job board, information regarding legislation, training opportunities, certifications, and more; its National Solar Database provides comprehensive information on solar companies operating in the United States.

*www.sierraclub.org/sierra/cool-schools-2014* – Sierra Club—a program sponsored by the nonprofit organization that provides information on colleges with green classes and green degrees.

*www.simplyhired.com* – Simply Hired—a job search engine.

*www.smacna.org* – Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA)—an international association of union contractors in heating, ventilating, and air conditioning; sheet metal; energy management and maintenance and more.

*www.solar-rating.org* – Solar Rating & Certification Corporation (ICC-SRCC)—a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the development and implementation of national rating standards and certification programs for solar energy equipment.

*www.solarenergy.org* – Solar Energy International (SEI)—a nonprofit educational organization that provides technical training and expertise in renewable energy.

*www.spri.org* – Single Ply Roofing Industry (SPRI)—a trade association representing sheet membrane and component suppliers to the commercial roofing industry.

*www.stars.aashe.org* – Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)—provides information on colleges with green courses and green degrees.

*www.sustainabilityprofessionals.org* – International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP)—a nonprofit educational organization that offers workshops, information, and links to local professionals.

*www.thegbi.org* – Green Building Initiative (GBI)—a nonprofit building-rating organization that administers the Green Globes building rating system and provides professional certifications (see *www.thegbi.org/professional-certification*).

*www.tile-assn.com* – National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA)—a trade association for installers of ceramic tile and natural stone. It focuses on education and training and offers a variety of resources.

*www.trade-schools.net* – Trade Schools, Colleges, and Universities—a directory of trade schools organized by academic programs, trade, or location; includes construction, building, carpentry, welding, and plumbing schools, and provides information profiles for each trade school.

*www.technical-schools-guide.com* – Technical Schools Guide—a listing of 495+ schools with more than 2,510 campus locations across that United States and Canada.

*www.ua.org* – United Association (UA)—union of plumbers, welders, pipefitters, and service techs; provides training in green skills, including the Green Systems Awareness program.

*www.ul.com* – Underwriters Laboratories (UL)—writes testing standards and certifies products for safety; includes UL Environment and Greenguard, which provides third-party certification for low-chemical-emitting products; certified products are subject to a review of the manufacturing process and routine testing to ensure minimal impact on the indoor environment.

*www.universities.com* – Universities.com—a directory of universities, colleges, vocational schools, training centers, and learning programs alphabetically, by program of study, by U.S. state, or, for international schools, by country; provides school information and Web links.

*www.usgbc.org* – U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)—a member of the International Green Building Council and the primary green organization in the United States. USGBC developed the LEED green building rating systems; there are chapters around the country (see *www.usgbc.org/chapters*).

*www.usgbc.org/articles* – USGBC blog on LEED, and other interesting articles on green building.

*www.usgbc.org/articles/rating-system-selection-guidance* – USGBC Rating System Selection Guidance

*www.usgbc.org/chapters* – USGBC list of individual chapters, which sponsor meetings and educational workshops.

[www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED) – USGBC Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)—a voluntary green building certification program, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council and administered by the Green Building Certification Institute, that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. LEED includes a suite of green building rating systems as well as programs for professional accreditation.

[www.usgbc.org/projects](http://www.usgbc.org/projects) – LEED project directory—a publically accessible and searchable directory of LEED projects, organized by building type.

[www.utexas.edu/world/comco/state](http://www.utexas.edu/world/comco/state) – University of Texas Community College Database—lists community colleges by state.

[www.vceonline.com](http://www.vceonline.com) – Valley Contractors Exchange (VCE) in Chico, CA—a builders exchange that offers educational programs locally.

[www.wdma.com](http://www.wdma.com) – Window & Door Manufacturers Association (WDMA)—an industry association that provides information, advocacy, and product certification for window and door manufacturers.

[www.windpowerexpo.org](http://www.windpowerexpo.org) – WINDPOWER Conference & Expo—American Wind Energy Association’s annual conference and exposition.

[www.411energyexperts.com](http://www.411energyexperts.com) – 411 Energy Experts—a for-profit training program in green building.