SDRC
SUSTAINABLE DISASTER RESPONSE COUNCIL

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U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL JOINS SUSTAINABLE DISASTER RESPONSE COUNCIL

Washington, DC, February 28th, 2017 - The Sustainable Disaster Response Council (SDRC) welcomes the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) as a founding member.

SDRC's mission is to promote sustainability in disaster response and property restoration - helping American homes, businesses and communities turn every loss into smart investments in a stronger, safer, healthier and environmentally responsible future.

As creator of the LEED standard and voice of a booming green building sector that now outpaces overall U.S. construction growth and is forecast to directly contribute 1.1 million jobs, $75.6 billion in wages and $303.5 billion to GDP by 2018, USGBC brings invaluable expertise to a growing body of SDRC members that will include disaster response and property restoration contractors, product manufacturers, insurers, property owners and managers, the architecture, engineering and construction community and experts from industry trades, NGOs, academia and government.

"Focusing on disaster response is a natural evolution for the green building movement," said Mahesh Ramanujam, USGBC President & CEO. "Owners of more than 15 billion square feet of building space worldwide already use LEED to demonstrate how buildings can dramatically reduce their energy and water consumption – but we also know LEED certified projects have diverted more than 80 million tons of construction and demolition waste from landfills, and that's just one example of how green buildings can directly contribute to sustainable disaster response and property restoration."

SDRC's first order of business will be to develop a roadmap that ties together best practices for construction & demolition waste, land-use, energy, water, materials, and other aspects of rebuilding and restoring properties and infrastructure in a more sustainable way. The council will then develop standards that incorporate and build upon existing programs like LEED and serve as the basis to certify disaster response projects and accredit associated professionals.

"Thirteen U.S. weather events in 2016 each caused losses in excess of $1 billion – a reminder that increasingly frequent and severe storms, together with every day localized fire and water damage, carry a big price tag for insurers, property owners and governments" said SDRC President Stephen Bushnell, himself a 40-year veteran of the insurance industry. "We're excited to have USGBC help us think about how to turn these losses into greener, healthier and more resilient buildings – and we can learn a lot from USGBC's experience developing LEED."

About the Sustainable Disaster Response Council

The Sustainable Disaster Response Council (SDRC) brings together leading voices from industry, government and civil society to define, validate and advocate for sustainability in disaster response and property restoration. SDRC member organizations' intellectual capital and experience in the marketplace guides our research, advocacy, certification and education programs and shapes our mission to help homes, businesses and communities turn every loss into smart investments in a stronger, safer, healthier and environmentally responsible future. For more information, visit www.sustainableresponse.org.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, the Center for Green Schools and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org and connect on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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