

The Governor's Energy Office and the Office of the State Architect are pleased to announce a recently-negotiated U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) membership for the State of Colorado. Colorado is the first state to have negotiated an umbrella membership for all state government departments, colleges, and universities in our state.

Who

All full-time state employees engaged in the built environment, either through design, manufacture, construction, or operations may take advantage of the state's membership. The state's membership will be paid for by the Governor's Energy Office for two years: November 2007 – October 2008 and November 2008 – October 2009. We will re-negotiate a future rate with USGBC in mid 2009.

What

The USGBC is a national non-profit organization committed to expanding sustainable building practices. Only organizations, not individuals can obtain a USGBC national membership. Individuals can join the local Colorado Chapter. State employees can join the Colorado Chapter at the member-rate of \$50 per year. To join the Colorado chapter, visit their Web site <http://www.usgbccolorado.com/>. Member benefits include newsletters, committee activities, online educational resources, leadership and networking opportunities, and membership discounts.

When

USGBC National membership benefits are available immediately. View the attachment for details. When you are ready to join the state's account, please contact me (contact info below) for the state's "corporate access ID." (USGBC recommends that we not broadcast the account number through mass e-mail distributions.)

Where

All offices, colleges, and universities throughout the state are encouraged to participate. If your organization has an existing membership, and the membership was paid for within the past couple of months, please let me know. While USGBC said they generally do not offer refunds on membership, it sounds like they might be willing to consider doing it for us.

How

How does USGBC membership benefit the state? We expect that education and programs provided through the USGBC will help us to achieve energy, water, and waste reductions to be reported as Greening Government results, and will create a better built environment for state employees. Moreover, USGBC's programs are focused on carbon-reduction strategies, an important component of Governor Ritter's Climate Action Plan.

Best regards,

Angie Fyfe, Greening Government Program Manager
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