



Governor's Energy Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: MEGAN CASTLE, (303) 866-2262

GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE RELEASES REPORT ON COSTS AND BENEFITS OF COLORADO'S HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS

*Study of Colorado's Green Buildings Provides Best Practices and
Strategies for Building Owners and Designers*

DENVER, CO June 7, 2007 –The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) announces the release of a new report to help building owners and design teams better understand the costs and benefits of constructing high-performance, green buildings in Colorado. "*Cost and Benefits of LEED-NC in Colorado*" is now available at no cost, on the GEO website. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and is the standard for green building rating systems.

This report provides results based on the study of eleven Colorado green building projects certified by the USGBC. From these studies, the report lists strategies and best practices to help owners manage green building projects to ensure the highest level of cost-effectiveness. Additionally, budgeting guidance to use when undertaking a green building project is provided.

"Buildings, next to transportation, are of the largest consumers of energy," said Tom Plant, GEO director. "The awareness and demand for green, high-performance buildings is soaring in Colorado. We want to encourage building owners and designers to understand that these energy saving practices are cost effective and learn how to incorporate them."

This research project and associated report, funded and directed by GEO, tackles questions such as:

- What is the cost-premium for a high-performance, green building built in Colorado?
- Is LEED cost effective in Colorado for new construction projects?
- How much should I budget for a green building?
- Of the four LEED-NC certification levels available, do certain levels cost more than others to obtain?
- What are the factors that make some green building projects cost less than others?

GEO provides support to help Colorado's state and local governments initiate this process to build better buildings through its commercial building program. Last year, "*Using LEED-NC in Colorado*," was released, which is also available on the GEO website. For more information:

- GEO: www.colorado.gov/oemc, Jeff Lyng, 303-866-2264, jeff.lyng@state.co.us
- "*Cost and Benefits of LEED-NC in Colorado*":
http://www.colorado.gov/rebuildco/services/highperformance/leed_cost/index.htm
- USGBC Colorado Chapter: Amy Jiron, amy@usgbccolorado.org, (303) 229-9424,
www.usgbc.org/chapters/colorado
- General LEED information: www.usgbc.org/leed. LEED is a registered trademark of the U.S. Green Building Council

-End-