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## **USGBC Celebrates Resiliency and Innovative Achievement at 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Carolinas Green Gala and Sustainable Business Awards**

*Awards celebrate the advancement of sustainability in the built environment across North and South Carolina*

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—(Nov. 29, 2018)—Last night, the U.S. Green Building Council ([USGBC](http://usgbc.org)) held its seventh annual Green Gala, where more than one hundred green building advocates from across North and South Carolina converged to celebrate the rapidly growing green building movement in the region.

“The Carolinas Green Gala recognizes the triple bottom-line benefits of green buildings: people, planet and profit,” said Rhiannon Jacobsen, vice president, market transformation and development at USGBC. “From across the Carolinas, local leaders are collectively working toward greater resiliency and sustainability of our communities through green buildings, and the Green Gala gives us the opportunity to celebrate our collective successes while recognizing individual leadership and contributions.”

The Green Gala, originally slated for Sept. 20 of this year, was postponed due to recovery efforts from Hurricane Florence.

Also a feature of the Green Gala was the Sustainable Business Awards, which highlight the people and projects that are transforming the built environment every day in North and South Carolina’s marketplace. Award winners were selected due to their leadership in the green building movement, and for their participation in LEED, or [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](http://www.usgbc.org/leed), the world’s most widely used green building rating system. Awardees of the Sustainable Business Awards have used LEED as a tool to transform the built environment across the Carolinas. The award winners include:

- [Jewish Studies Center Addition](#), *Community Champion*: The Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C., exemplifies what it means to be a service-orientated organization serving the needs of its community. The LEED Gold addition to the center incorporates the latest smart technology and innovations in all classrooms, as well as integrating water- and energy-saving tactics, sustainable building materials, natural lighting, kosher/vegan/vegetarian food options, as well as compostable dishware and cutlery. The Center is a space for the Jewish studies

program and the Jewish community at the college to have a sustainable, healthy place to learn and serve the community, addressing the environment, equity, health and society through their buildings and mission.

- [Sealed Air Global Corporation Headquarters](#), *Innovative Project – Building Design & Construction*: The Sealed Air Global Corporate Headquarters in Charlotte achieved LEED Gold recognition as the result of strategies that incorporated sustainable features in the buildings and site design, such as energy and water conservation measures, efficient building envelopes, convenient access to the buildings for employees and visitors, and optimization of indoor air quality. The Sealed Air campus, which consists of three LEED Gold buildings, implemented four overarching strategies that made the new Sealed Air campus a remarkable example of highly innovative design: open space and tree preservation, alternative transportation options, zero waste campus initiatives and occupant access to daylight, views and lighting controls.
- [109845 Brigham Building](#), *Innovative Project – Interior Design & Construction*: Similar to the innovative project winner for Building Design & Construction, the LEED Gold Brigham Building, also in Charlotte, is an example of innovative design to the interior of a building space. The project owners sought to create an engaging workplace environment that was both flexible and comfortable, increasing employee productivity by deploying a range of innovative workplace spaces such as collaborative areas, break rooms, and focus rooms. It also incorporates the latest technology to improve energy and water efficiency, and uses sustainable materials.
- [Charter Square](#), *Marquee Green Building*: Charter Square is an iconic LEED Platinum building that provided a dramatic addition to the Raleigh skyline. Charter Square is an 11-story tower, with more than 200,000 square feet of Class A office, retail, and restaurant space. Achieving LEED Platinum through a significant increase in energy efficiency, responsible use of resources, promoting recycling and reclamation of materials, improving indoor air quality and providing a healthy working environment makes Charter Square one of the most innovative and significant sustainable buildings in the Carolinas.
- [Moseley Architects](#), *Community Change Agent – Professional Services*: With a nearly twenty-year history of promoting sustainable design, a diverse portfolio of LEED projects and a strong commitment to sustainability, Moseley Architects has positioned itself as a Community Change Agent that is dedicated to USGBC's mission of transforming the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated. As a member of USGBC, with more than a third of its staff LEED-accredited, and a mission to transform the sustainability of the built environment for the better, Moseley Architects has demonstrated their commitment to a positive community impact through sustainable design and construction.
- Alex Andrews, [DRP LLC](#), *Community Change Agent – Community Development*: CEO of Dominion Realty Partners, LLC (DRP), and sustainability pioneer Alex Andrews leads the development, acquisitions, strategic planning, construction and financing of eco-friendly commercial and residential projects throughout the Carolinas and Virginia. Under Andrews' leadership, DRP played a major role in actively changing Raleigh's downtown skyline, playing an important part of this year's Marquee Green Building winner, Charter Square. DRP and Andrews are committed to sustainability and environmentally friendly development principals for all current and future projects.

- Lauren McDowell, [Barringer Construction](#), *Volunteer Leadership Award*: This award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding commitments through their personal time and energy, community connections, or other support to advance the green building movement in the Carolinas. As a project coordinate with Barringer Construction, Lauren McDowell has led dozens of projects through the LEED certification program, while at the same time bringing together her love of construction and community service. She has been involved in multiple Habitat for Humanity builds over the years, which ensures that every home is built to LEED Silver standards. An advocate for Charlotte's youth, she has served as a First Tee Coach, teaching life skills and leadership through golf, and has also been involved with Charlotte sandbox, a nonprofit helping families who have a child that has been diagnosed with cancer or life altering illness.
- [Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Westover Division Station](#), *People's Choice Award*: The People's Choice Award is given to a project nominated for a Sustainable Business Awards, and chosen by the attendees at the Green Gala. This year, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Policy Department Westover Division Station was voted as the People's Choice winner. This project is one of the first certified LEED v4 projects in North Carolina. The station fulfills a specific need in the community, and as such, the project incorporated the community's involvement throughout the design, taking feedback and ideas at public meetings and installing a community-built art installment at the building's entrance. In addition, the station was designed to the highest standards of environmental sustainability, incorporating sustainable design and energy- and water-efficiency techniques that will save money and contribute to the health and sustainability of the community.

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### **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, an international network of local community leaders, 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](http://usgbc.org) and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).