



WORLD  
GREEN  
BUILDING  
COUNCIL



**WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL**  
Annual report 2015/2016

# WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

The World Green Building Council is a global network of Green Building Councils which is transforming the places we live, work, play, heal and learn.

We believe green buildings can and must be at the centre of our lives. Our changing climate means we must reshape the way we grow and build, enabling people to thrive both today and tomorrow.

We take action – championing local and global leadership, and empowering our community to drive change. Together, we are greater than the sum of our parts, and commit to green buildings for everyone, everywhere.

## GREEN BUILDING COUNCILS

Green Building Councils are independent, non-profit organisations typically made up of businesses and organisations working in the building and construction industry. As members of WorldGBC, they work to advance green building in their own countries, as well as uniting with other Green Building Councils to achieve environmental, economic and social goals on a larger, global scale.

Discover more about the World Green Building Council at [worldgbc.org](https://worldgbc.org)



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# A WARM WELCOME...

Without question, this past year has been a period of great change globally, as well as for us in the global green building movement.



**Terri Wills**  
CEO, World Green Building Council

In December 2015, world leaders gathered at COP21 and adopted the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 2 degrees. And at this momentous event, buildings took centre stage. For the first time, world leaders recognised that green buildings must and will be part of the solution to climate change.

Since then, the work of our green building movement has been transformative. Inspired by the global momentum towards decarbonisation, and guided by a new WorldGBC strategy and structure, we and our member network of Green Building Councils have accomplished so much in a short space of time.

In the 18 months since I joined, we spearheaded the journey to Net Zero emission buildings in 10 countries; we published evidence proving green buildings can improve health and wellbeing; we leveraged climate finance to support Global South cities develop green building policies; and we strengthened Green Building Councils in a number of local markets.

But we cannot stop here. The accomplishments in this Annual Report show our great potential – but we must increase our impact, and we must convert more of the world to green building. So we invite you to join our journey, as we commit to green buildings for everyone, everywhere.

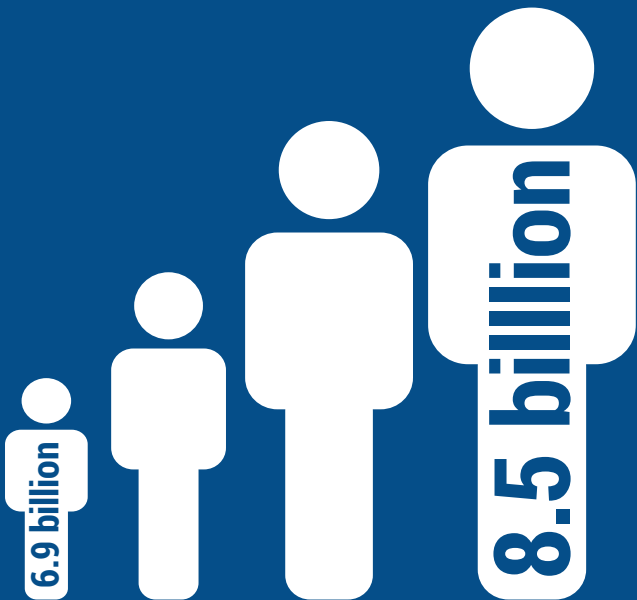
## OUR MISSION IN NUMBERS



Buildings account for over 30% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



Buildings use about 14% of the world's drinking water



**WorldGBC, member GBCs and our member partners are determined to create global change that significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions.**

In particular, we are committed to achieving the following by 2050:

- 1** limit global temperature increase to 2°C
- 2** reduce the sector's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 84 gigatonnes
- 3** ensure all buildings are net zero emissions

# GREEN BUILDING COUNCILS AND THEIR WORK

Around the world there are 74 Green Building Councils, each at different stages of their own green building journey. There are three membership levels for Green Building Councils:

**Established** – a fully developed and operational organisation that is running impactful green building programmes of work – delivering change on a national level, and embracing best practice governance, accountability, and transparency.

**Emerging** – an organisation open to membership and which has a strong foundation, such as an elected board and staff to manage day-to-day operations. It is expected to progress to Established status within 24 months.

**Prospective** – an organisation at the early stages of development but which has put in place a comprehensive strategy on how it will operate and advance green building in its country. It is expected to progress to Emerging status within 24 months.

Green Building Councils often guide and support one another across a range of activities, and every Emerging GBC is paired with an Established GBC to help them reach this top tier of membership.

Our aim is to enable each GBC to be as strong as possible, so they can advance the green building movement and make sure many more people embrace green buildings as a solution to the environmental, economic and societal issues we all face today.

“Just as children aren’t born running, GBCs go through growth phases too. From the beginning of the journey as Prospective members, to fully operational Emerging members, and finally to demonstrating strong leadership as Established members, which deliver major change, on the ground, in their own countries.”

Dominika Czerwinska, Director of Membership and Regional Networks, WorldGBC

## Regional Networks

All of our GBCs fall within five geographical areas which we call our Regional Networks. These are:

### Africa

Ghana  
Kenya  
Mauritius  
Namibia  
South Africa  
Tanzania  
Zambia

### Americas

Argentina  
Bolivia

Brazil  
Canada  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Mexico  
Nicaragua  
Panama

Paraguay  
Peru  
Trinidad & Tobago  
US  
Uruguay  
Venezuela

### Asia-Pacific

Australia  
Hong Kong  
India  
Indonesia  
Japan  
Kazakhstan  
Korea  
Malaysia  
New Zealand

Pakistan  
Philippines  
Singapore  
Sri Lanka  
Taiwan  
Vietnam

### Europe

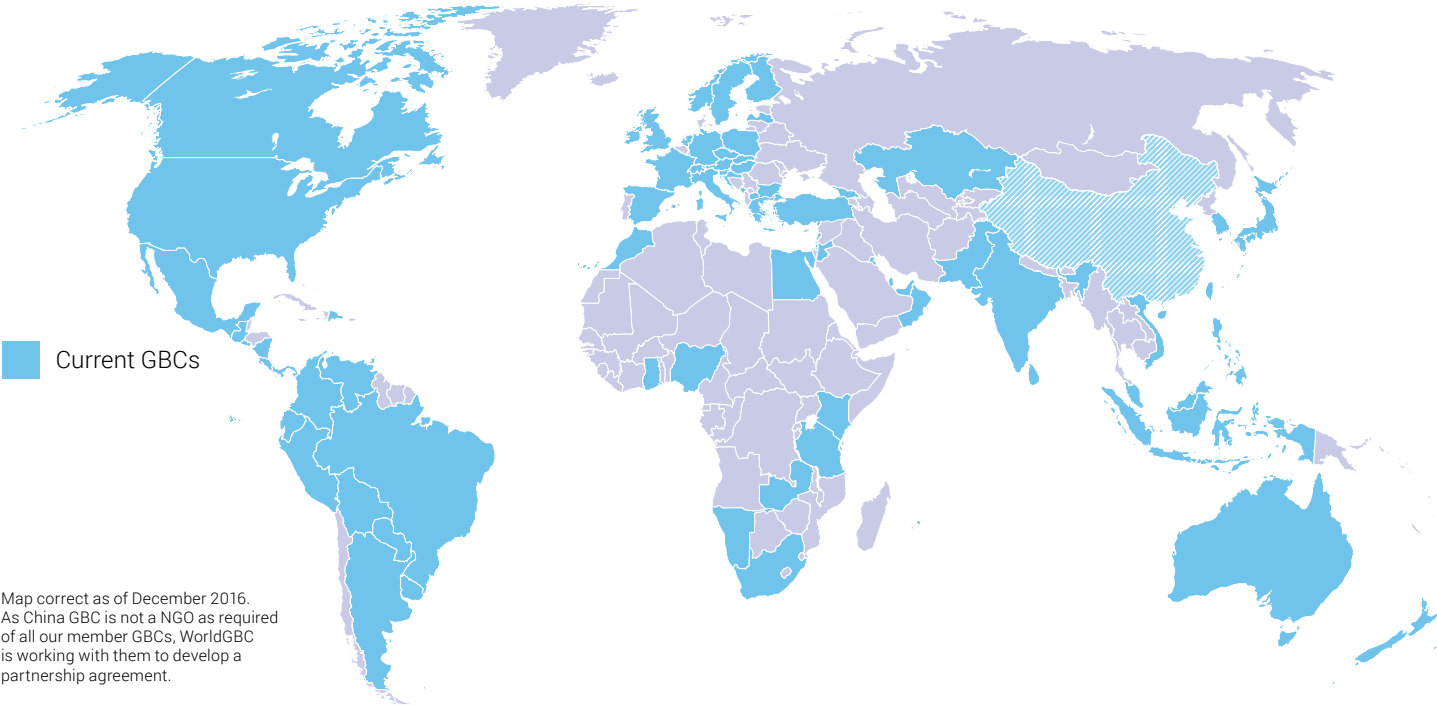
Austria  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Ireland

Italy  
Latvia  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
UK  
Ukraine

### Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Bahrain  
Egypt  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Morocco  
Palestine  
Qatar  
United Arab Emirates

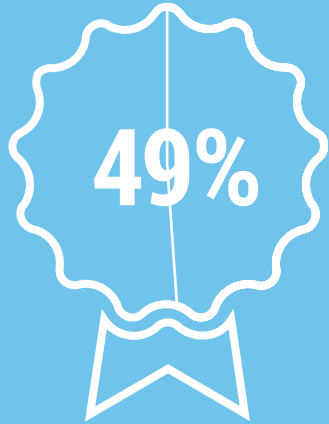
## Our member GBCs



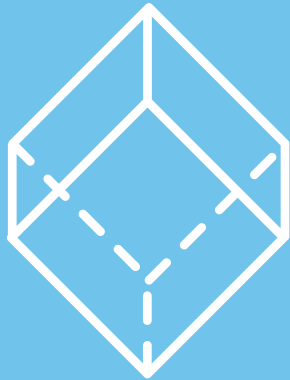
Map correct as of December 2016. As China GBC is not a NGO as required of all our member GBCs, WorldGBC is working with them to develop a partnership agreement.



RAISING STANDARDS

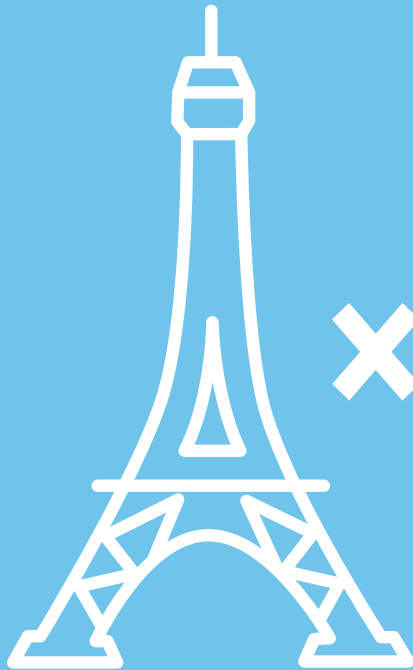


49% of GBCs administer a green building certification system in their country.



1.04 billion m<sup>2</sup>

So far, these GBCs have certified over 1,040,064,270 billion m<sup>2</sup> of green building space around the world.\*



×10

That’s an area 10 times the size of Paris!

\*This figure is based on certification data provided by all member Green Building Councils which administer rating tools. In 2014, GBCs had certified 286 million square feet of green buildings (based on 13 GBCs).

What Green Building Councils did in 2015/16

In most countries there are a number of organisations whose work touches upon sustainability in the building sector. But none of these organisations carry out the depth of work that Green Building Councils do to advance the green building movement on both the national and global scale.

In 2015/16, our GBCs:

**Led their members** – GBCs positioned themselves as the “go-to” organisations in their countries regarding any matters relating to green buildings. This included defining what a green building is, how to achieve them, and, in many cases, certifying green building space.

**Raised awareness** – GBCs spread the word to hundreds of thousands of people about green buildings and the impact they can have on people’s lives and the planet. This included those who work in the building and construction sectors, influential figures such as politicians and members of the public.

**Developed skills and capacity** – GBCs educated and supported a wide range of individuals and organisations from the public and private sectors to lay the foundations for the construction, operation and procurement of many more green buildings.

**Delivered change** – GBCs worked with governments, policy makers, cities and other key industry figures to influence green building policy design and delivery. This work will help to make sure their countries meet long-term climate change targets in the future.

**Created a stronger business case** – GBCs shared key findings that established a stronger business cases for green buildings. Showing influencers the financial and economic benefits of sustainable buildings is absolutely vital to growing and sustaining a market for them.

**Operated effectively and transparently** – GBCs practiced transparent and democratic governance, and sound financial management. This included them reporting their impact back to the WorldGBC, through our annual Member Value Survey.

**Certified green buildings** – Many GBCs continued to develop and implement certification for green buildings. Certification has been shown to kick start the market, encouraging all players in the industry to build the best green buildings possible, and to pave the path towards improvements in standards and codes made by city, regional and national governments.

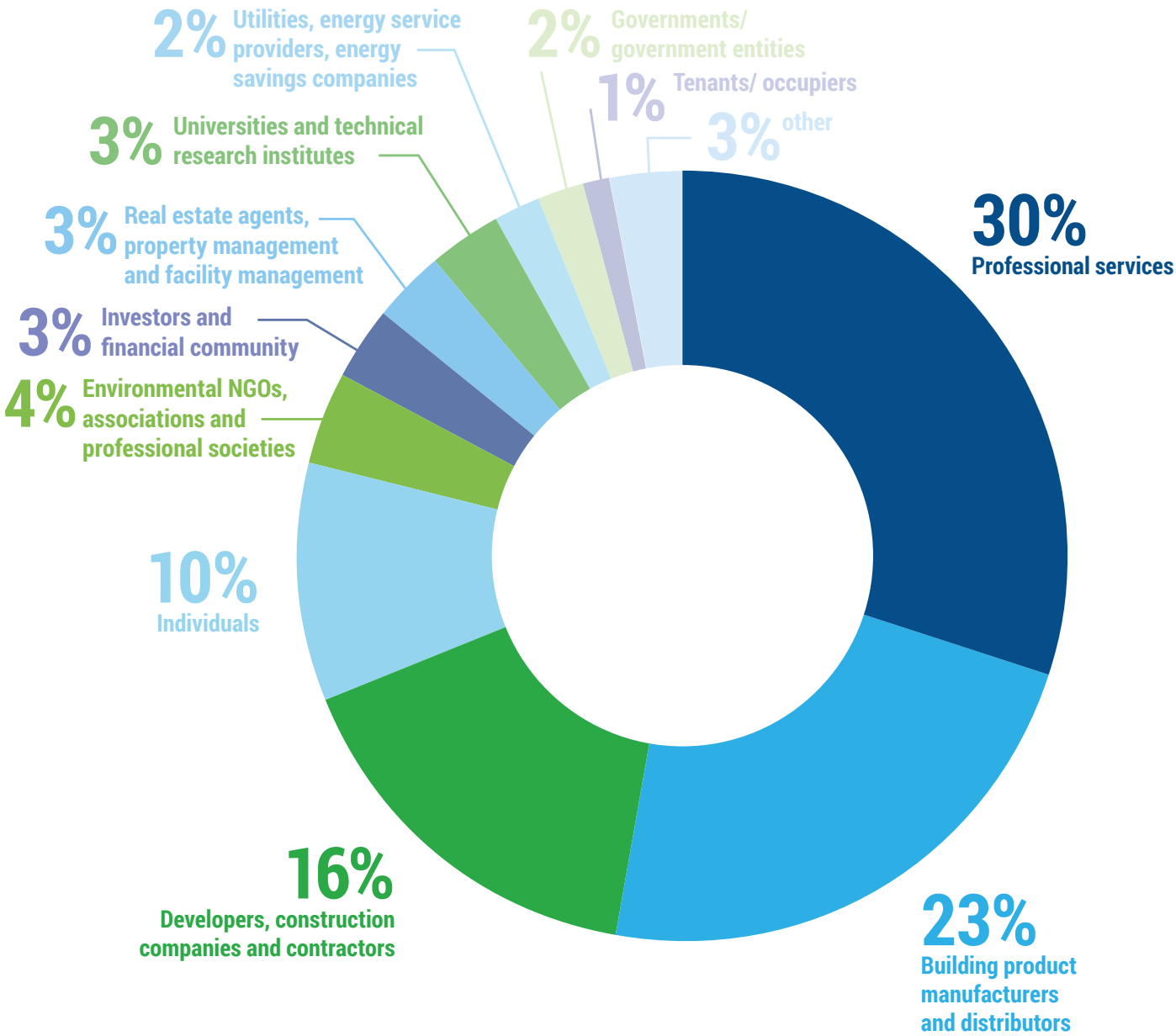
“Being a member is to be part of a community of passionate enthusiasts willing to share ideas focused on the common cause of making the green built environment a widespread reality all over the world, one space at a time!”

Abdullah Bdeir, Chairman of Jordan Green Building Council, Chair of the MENA Regional Network



## WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE GBCS?

Our 74 GBCs from around the world have a total of 32,000 members. They come from a wide range of sectors linked to the built environment. Moving forward, many GBCs are seeking to involve more members from the ‘demand’ side of the building and construction sector, including real estate agents, investors and tenant/occupiers.



\*Data is from 49 of our 74 members, provided through our Annual Member Survey 2016.

## GBCS IN NUMBERS 2015/16

NUMBER OF GBC EMPLOYEES (FULL TIME EMPLOYEES)	NUMBER OF GBC MEMBERS (COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS)	PEOPLE ENGAGED (IN TRAINING AND EVENTS)
Total Established 700	Total Established 29,958	Total Established 95,575
Total Emerging 43	Total Emerging 1,464	Total Emerging 23,575
Total Prospective 27	Total Prospective 577	Total Prospective 6,144
Total 770	Total 31,999	Total 125,280

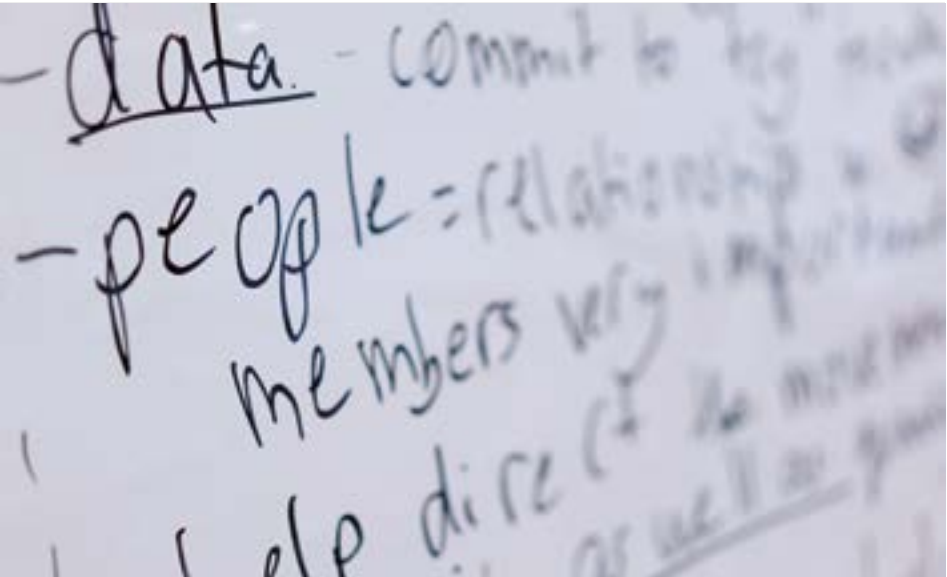
\*Data is from 60 of our 74 members, provided through our Annual Member Survey 2016.

# WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL AND OUR WORK

We know buildings are major contributors to climate change. We also know that green buildings offer one of the most cost-effective solutions to climate change and can lead to significant environmental, economic and social benefits around the world.

Since we were founded in 2002, the World Green Building Council has worked tirelessly to spread this message. Our sustained efforts have led to global businesses, governments and many other influential organisations and figures embracing green buildings as a practical and viable solution to a range of challenges facing the planet and its people.

**But more than ever,  
the time for action is now.**



This is why in the past year we did even more than ever to be a force for change.

We provided more comprehensive support to help Green Building Councils secure major, on-the-ground change in their own countries and regions. They are the power behind the green building movement, so the stronger and more successful the Green Building Council community is, the greater the chance we have of limiting the effects of climate change and improving the lives of millions of people around the world.

Also, our global campaigns, projects, influence and events inspired greater ambition, more dedicated commitment and momentum towards achieving our mission, and led to real-world developments that will reshape the way we build.

## WORLDGBC IN NUMBERS



1

World Green Building Council



5

Regional Networks



8

full-time employees in  
London and Toronto



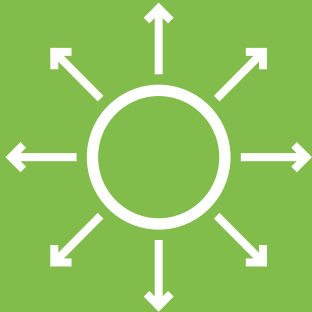
74

Green Building Councils



32,000

member companies



Millions

of lives changed



## OUR 2015/16

Communicating the importance of green building, and the work of our GBCs, is key to our mission. So, in 2015 we launched our first in-house Marketing and Communications function to raise awareness about our movement and to grow our global influence.

### In 2015/16, we:

- secured extensive media coverage around the world for WorldGBC campaigns, projects, reports and opinion pieces, with over 400 press mentions since COP21
- published two reports
- promoted the great work and initiatives of Green Building Councils and partners in the press and on social media
- designed and promoted resources for GBCs and their members to help them raise awareness of the green building movement and our campaigns
- secured WorldGBC staff to speak at high-profile events, such as at COP21, the Business and Climate Summit, MIPIM, Climate Week NYC and Habitat III
- increased our social media presence, with over 7,000 followers on Twitter.

“We must tell the world about the multiple benefits of green buildings and why it’s better to build green.”

**James Kershaw,**  
Marketing and  
Communications Manager,  
WorldGBC

## MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFLUENCE

### Buildings Day

WorldGBC was delighted to collaborate with the French government, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other international organisations to launch the first ever Buildings Day hosted at a COP event, formally convened by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Dedicated to the building sector and the role it can play in tackling climate change, Buildings Day brought together major CEOs from global corporations, government Ministers from the Global North and South, City Mayors, and Provincial Premiers to demonstrate how green building strategies can and must be part of the Paris Agreement commitments. It also gained significant global media coverage (with over 70 press mentions for WorldGBC and its GBCs) and provided an influential platform for GBCs and their members to share their own national and corporate member commitments on green buildings.

The Day also led to the launch of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, which now includes 23 countries and 64 non-state organisations.

Find out more at [betterbuildgreen.org](http://betterbuildgreen.org)

“As you work towards building a more sustainable future, please know you have my support and my best wishes”

**Bill Clinton,**  
former President of the United States of America

### At the first ever Buildings Day

All GBCs backed the WorldGBC’s commitment to reduce 84 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings by 2050. This will be achieved through net zero buildings and energy efficient renovation.

Over 30 GBCs made ambitious national commitments to tackle climate change. They collectively committed to registering, renovating or certifying an additional 1.25 billion square metres of green building space – nearly twice the size of Singapore – and providing green building training to 127,000 professionals by 2020.

### COP21 and Better Build Green

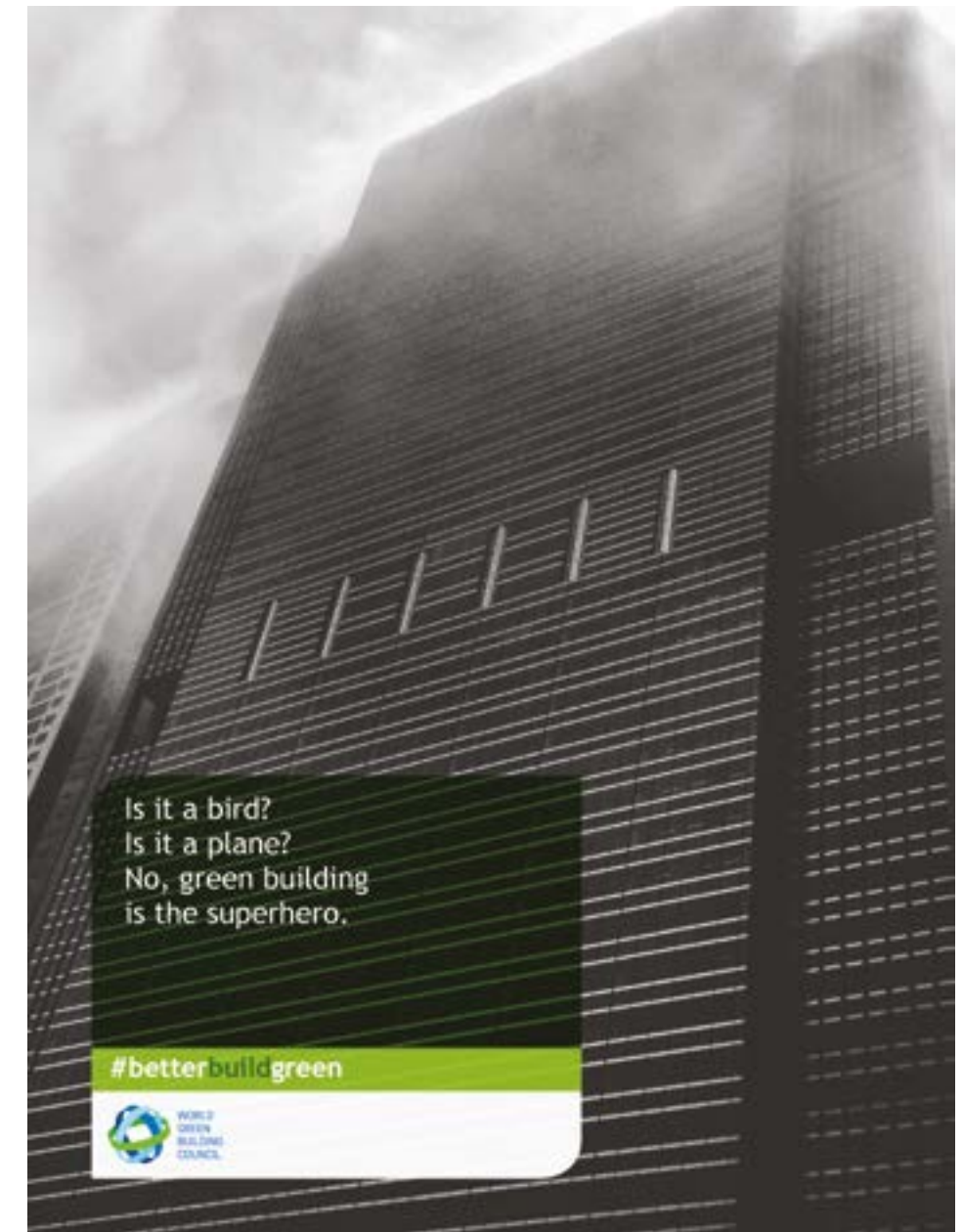
At the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, in December, we were encouraged to see 195 countries sign the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In the build-up to this historic event, WorldGBC launched its most high profile campaign to date – Better Build Green. It showed global leaders, business executives, policy makers and city mayors the vital role green buildings can play in tackling climate change and delivering immediate environmental, economic and social benefits.

We also created many downloadable resources to help GBCs and partner organisations easily spread the word about Better Build Green at the UN’s biggest ever climate change conference, which was the third most valuable initiative we provided, according to our members.

### In the news

In March 2016, the UK’s Sunday Times, which has a readership of 800,000, published a major feature on green buildings and the role of the WorldGBC at COP21.







World Green Building Week 2016

Organised by WorldGBC and led by our family of 74 Green Building Councils and their 32,000 member companies, World Green Building Week is the flagship event of the global green building movement.

This year, the theme of the Week, which took place in September, was Change Your Perspective. It expands on the messaging of our Better Build Green global campaign by calling on people to think differently about buildings, and specifically about green buildings and how they can tackle climate change but also solve other pressing global issues.



Across the globe, GBCs organised over 70 events as part of World Green Building Week, over 100 businesses took part, and the campaign reached an incredible one million people on social media.



To help GBCs and member companies promote this message, we created an easy-to-use microsite at [worldgreenbuildingweek.org](http://worldgreenbuildingweek.org), a useful guide on how to get involved in the campaign, and a number of other downloadable assets.

We're thrilled to report that these resources really helped GBCs and their members bring to life on a global and national stage their own stories and how green buildings can lead to environmental, social and economic change that will benefit us all.

This work included GBCs throughout our Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Middle East and North Africa regions hosting tours of green buildings, creating videos, holding seminars, publishing reports and presenting compelling facts and figures to key audiences.

We were also delighted that Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission, agreed to be the Patron for World Green Building Week 2016 in Europe. He helped to highlight the role that green building can play in combating climate change and reducing energy bills.

In addition, many of our partners also participated in the week in a variety of ways, from filming videos on corporate social responsibility to releasing white papers.

WorldGBC Congress 2016

In October 2016, the WorldGBC team travelled to Stockholm, Sweden, for its annual Congress, which this year was hosted with Sweden Green Building Council and the City of Stockholm.

Highlights from the event included the best-attended WorldGBC Members' Day ever; a two-day conference which featured expert speakers from around the world, including WorldGBC staff and partners, and was attended by over 1,000 people; a gala dinner at the prestigious Stockholm City Hall; building site tours across the city; and – for some lucky GBC staff – a trip to see the Northern Lights in Northern Sweden.

We also announced that Rick Fedrizzi, the outgoing CEO of the US Green Building Council, and Mayor Gregor Robertson and Deputy Mayor Andrea Reimer of the City of Vancouver, were the winners of the WorldGBC Chairman's Award, and Pierre-André de Chalendar, CEO of Saint Gobain, was awarded the David Gottfried Award.



"With over 100 people from 38 Green Building Councils, the 2016 Members' Day was our most successful yet – an inspiring occasion that will motivate our movement over the year ahead."

Tai Lee Siang, Chair, World Green Building Council





## OUR 2015/16

Many GBCs have shared interests and encounter the same challenges and opportunities. Through global projects and partnerships, we help them to connect and collaborate so they can achieve the results they want faster and more effectively than they could do alone.

### In 2015/16, we:

- restructured Better Places to refocus on the global diversity of approaches to green and healthy buildings
- launched two new projects – Advancing Net Zero and Building Efficiency Accelerator
- launched the Established GBC CEO Network, bringing together our top tier of GBCs from five regions to support each other and share best practices.

“Through projects and partnerships, GBCs receive a range of benefits, from access to experts and resources, to exposure for their achievements.”

**Jonathan Laski, Director of Global Projects and Partnerships, WorldGBC**

## GLOBAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

### Better Places for People

Over the past 18 months, WorldGBC has been making progress with its Better Places for People campaign.

The global project aims to create a world in which buildings are not only good for the environment, but also support healthier and happier lives for those who occupy them. It aims to increase the supply and demand of healthy green buildings, by supporting GBCs in demonstrating the linkage between green buildings and attributes which contribute to health and wellbeing.

Already to date, 27 Green Building Councils are involved, and they are

exploring various initiatives in their own countries, such as normalising the concept of healthy buildings into green building certification schemes, advancing the public health benefits of buildings, and creating working groups on different sectors such as offices and residential.

We are supported by nine sponsors (ARUP, B+H, International WELL Building Institute, Land Securities, Lendlease, Marks and Spencer, Saint-Gobain, Skanska and Uponor) and contributors including Google have backed the campaign and began implementing and measuring green and health and wellbeing principles within their buildings.



71% of participating Green Building Councils say that the Better Places for People campaign has helped to advance green building in their market. GBCs rated this campaign the most impactful activity of WorldGBC in 2016.

We've developed a wide range of activities and resources to help these GBCs and partners engage people who design, build, own, occupy, manage or sell buildings.

These activities and resources include two landmark reports on the health benefits of green offices and retail buildings in 2016, a microsite, downloadable presentations, blog posts, webinars, case studies, and toolkits to help businesses measure the impact of their environments on their employees and customers.

We have a number of exciting initiatives planned for 2017 and will conduct further research into the link between green design and health and wellbeing outcomes, in order to maximise the number of healthy, green buildings around the world.

For more information, visit [betterplacesforpeople.org](http://betterplacesforpeople.org)



### Building Efficiency Accelerator

The Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA) is a public-private partnership that speeds the development and implementation of building efficiency policies and practices in cities around the world. It is led by the World Resources Institute, in support of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative.

WorldGBC was invited as a delivery partner and was asked to involve a few of its Green Building Councils to give valuable technical advice and bring together the building and construction sector to support collective development of a city's policy or strategy. In the past year, four

GBCs – Colombia, Emirates, Poland and South Africa – have been directly supporting the cities of Bogota, Dubai, Warsaw and Tshwane, with the aim of doubling their rate of energy efficiency. WorldGBC and several GBCs also received Global Environment Facility funding (via WRI) to support their activities in the Global South.

Looking ahead, our aim is to pair more GBCs with more cities to develop and implement energy efficiency, and leverage more climate finance to help green the buildings of Global South cities. With two-thirds of the world's population expected to live in cities by 2050, and 80% of greenhouse gas emissions currently coming from cities, we must work hard to support major decision makers in cities.

“The Building Efficiency Accelerator will help to foster a culture of efficiency in existing and new buildings, allowing us to see best practices and benefits from other cities' experiences to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations.”

**His Excellency Ahmed Butti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy**



# 10 HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

In September 2016, our Global Projects and Partnerships team held a three-day “net zero” workshop in New York for 10 GBCs who have committed to introduce net zero certification in their countries.

We discussed the confusion that exists from different definitions of net zero, and determined how we would create a common language while recognising local differences. We also discussed the ‘Theory of Change’ of certification and how GBCs can use it to kickstart the market.

All representatives who attended the workshop told us how beneficial the workshop was in terms of developing net zero certification and connecting with their peers.



## Advancing Net Zero

Our new Advancing Net Zero project has an ambitious target we’re determined to meet: to make sure that all buildings are “net zero” carbon by 2050.

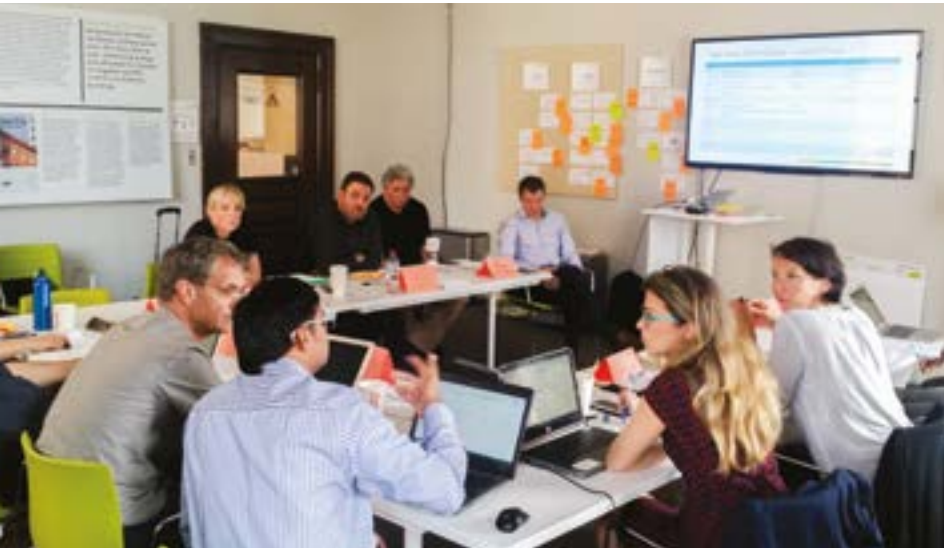
Initially, at the first Buildings Day, three Green Building Councils committed to introduce Net Zero emissions certification as part of our COP21 Commitment. Inspired by these initial leaders, seven other Green Building Councils made the same commitment, and together, they agreed to collaborate and support each other’s efforts, create a common framework to guide other GBCs in the future, and to report to WorldGBC on the number of Net Zero emissions buildings in their country. These will be either standalone programmes or additions to existing certifications.

Each participating GBC will also create specialised net zero training for green building professionals and

support the development of net zero demonstration projects in their countries.

Going forward, WorldGBC will also work closely with the GBCs and its lead partner Architecture 2030 to raise awareness of the possibility of Net Zero emissions buildings; and support our GBCs to work with national and local governments to introduce Net Zero emissions strategies and policies.

WorldGBC launched its Advancing Net Zero project at the Business and Climate Summit in London, in June 2016, which was attended by the former UNFCCC Secretary General Christiana Figueres. Since then, the project has received over 40 press mentions.



# MEMBERSHIP

## Established GBC CEO Network

In 2016, WorldGBC formed the Established GBC CEO Network. This initiative was founded on the belief that the CEOs of our most effective GBCs are the leaders of the green building movement around the world, and that they can gain great benefit and support from convening with their peers on a regular basis. Furthermore, WorldGBC gains incredible insights to guide its future strategy from this influential group.

### In 2015/16, we:

- convened calls with the Network on topics such as good governance, membership recruitment and retention, and supporting cities
- held two in-person meetings – one in Toronto and one in Sweden next to Congress
- involved over 75% of Established GBC CEOs in the network



Members of the Established GBC CEO Network in Stockholm, Sweden, October 2016

## TOP FIVE WORLDGBC ACTIVITIES

We support GBCs through many different activities.

Asked what they were most satisfied with in terms of impact, GBCs said:

- 1 Better Places for People
- 2 World Green Building Week
- 3 Buildings Day and Better Build Green
- 4 Regional Network meetings
- 5 Resources to support members

## OUR 2015/16

Bringing new GBCs into the WorldGBC family and helping them to develop and strengthen is critical to helping achieve national green building goals, and enabling WorldGBC to reach its long-term aims. This is why the work of our membership team is so important.

### In 2015/16, we:

- strengthened the Membership Committee, now comprised of seven GBCs from across all five regions of the WorldGBC
- brought six new GBCs into the WorldGBC network – Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam
- progressed 12 GBCs in their ‘status’, including six to the highest level of governance and effectiveness, the Established Status.

Being a member of the WorldGBC family can be hugely beneficial to GBCs. As well as benefiting from the work of our Membership team, being aligned to our organisation adds credibility to each GBC’s work and opens doors to funding and potential partners that might not be possible otherwise.



## OUR 2015/16

Our Regional Networks are powerful, collaborative platforms where GBCs can effectively exchange knowledge, generate new ideas and design solutions that speed up green building in their own markets and across the region.

### In 2015/16, we:

- helped GBCs from the same region to network and share knowledge and experiences through nine Regional Network meetings
- helped GBCs in Regional Networks to get involved in WorldGBC projects, campaigns and events
- held our second, biennial Asia Pacific Leadership in Green Building Awards, together with our official award partners: The World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group
- began the process to recruit a Regional Manager for the Asia Pacific Regional Network.

“Being part of a Regional Network is a way for GBCs to mature faster and to amplify the message we are sending to our markets.”

**James Drinkwater,**  
Director, Europe  
Regional Network,  
WorldGBC



## REGIONAL NETWORKS

### Growing our Regional Networks

Within our Regional Networks, GBCs work together, and share their knowledge and experiences so they are an even greater force than if they acted alone as individual GBCs.

Working in this way, our Regional Networks are developing and implementing initiatives and campaigns that are creating wide-scale change.

The Europe Regional Network, our most developed to date, enjoyed a year of marked growth with the addition of BASF as its sixth Partner, and the appointment of a new Senior Policy Advisor to guide the network on EU legislation on sustainable buildings.

We were delighted to welcome Majid Al Futtaim as the first Partner for the MENA Regional Network. We also advanced fundraising for other regions as our goal is to have a Regional Manager in place across all five Networks by the end of 2017.



Construction Industry Council's ZCB in Hong Kong, the winner of the Leadership in Sustainable Design and Performance (Institutional) category at the Asia Pacific Leadership in Green Building Awards 2016.

### Leading Europe's building renovation revolution

Emissions from Europe's existing buildings represent one of the biggest climate challenges the region faces. That's why it's critical that strong national building renovation strategies are developed and implemented in European countries to reduce the energy use in existing buildings.

This led to the EU calling on each of its member states to establish long-term strategies to renovate their nation's homes and commercial buildings to high standards of energy efficiency.

To make sure this happens, and that strategies have the long-term impact that's desperately needed, 13 GBCs from Europe, supported by WorldGBC, are leading the groundbreaking BUILD UPON project.

BUILD UPON is the world's largest collaborative project on building renovation, funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. At over 60 events in 2016 across the region's capitals and major



cities, it has brought together a +1,000 organisation strong community of businesses, governments, NGOs and building users to help countries design and implement the national renovation strategies their buildings, economies and citizens need.

You can learn more about the pioneering work of the BUILD UPON project at [buildupon.eu](http://buildupon.eu)

### BUILD UPON

brings together over 1,200 organisations from 13 countries at over 80 events in 2016–17.

Over 900 renovation initiatives shared on the RenoWiki website [buildupon.eu/initiatives](http://buildupon.eu/initiatives)



### Meeting the challenge

In September 2016, 170 leaders from 25 countries, and including representatives from 10 national governments, attended the BUILD UPON Leaders' Summit in Madrid.

“WorldGBC's BUILD UPON is a true community of leaders – we are counting on your leadership to create a renovation revolution across Europe.”

**Maroš Šefčovič,**  
Vice-President,  
European Commission





OUR 2015/16

Our Operations, Governance and Funding team is the backbone of WorldGBC. Its work is pivotal to ensure we stay true to our mission, we are as strong and effective as possible, and we plan confidently for the future and provide excellent support to GBCs.

- In 2015/16, we:**
- began a review of our bylaws, policies and processes so we are more organised than ever, more transparent and more credible
  - rebuilt our contacts database so we are more efficient at communicating with GBCs and better equipped to spread the word of the green building movement
  - collected a record annual income from a wide range of sources, including payments from GBCs, so we can manage our resources and plan for the future more effectively.

“WorldGBC is like a big brother to national GBCs. We hold their hand and guide them along the path to setting up an organisation that can create real change.”

Alexis Dangel,  
Operations  
Manager,  
WorldGBC



OPERATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING

Our Board

At WorldGBC, we believe in strong governance and accountability – to our mission, to the green building movement, and to our member Green Building Councils. This is why we follow governance best practice, and elect our Chair and each Board member every two years. In 2016, this meant that we saw a transition of our Chair. Bruce Kerswill, one of the founders of GBC South Africa, stepped down after overseeing the recruitment

of our new CEO, the Board approval and implementation of our new strategic plan, and our highest profile engagement at COP21.

In July 2016, our new Chair Tai Lee Siang was elected with a manifesto to continue to grow the total number of GBCs (and in particular the number reaching Established status), expand our communications and influence globally, and provide more global support to cities of the world.



The WorldGBC Board and Corporate Advisory Board in Stockholm, Sweden, October 2016.

OUR NEW GREEN LONDON OFFICE WITH UK-GBC

WorldGBC is delighted that its London office – which it shares with the UK Green Building Council – has achieved the lowest embodied carbon footprint ever recorded for an office refurbishment in the UK.

The fitout of the 160m² office, led by the team at UK-GBC, is a landmark project which we hope will inspire and encourage employers, landlords and occupiers to set the bar high when upgrading their own office spaces.

The refurbishment espouses low carbon and health and wellbeing principles advocated by both UK-GBC and WorldGBC. The embodied carbon footprint is 22% below a comparable “standard” fit-out, with a 48% decrease in carbon emissions from lighting (provided by our Corporate Advisory Board member Philips) and 98% of the original fixtures and finishes were reused or repurposed.

The new HQ also includes a living wall with over 1,500 plants; an innovative ventilation system, which has delivered a 750% increase in background fresh air provision; and products and finishes that minimise, and in some cases actively remove, pollutants from the air.

WorldGBC would like to thank UK-GBC and its partners for delivering such an inspiring and sustainable workspace.

Visit [ukgbc.org](http://ukgbc.org) for more details.



# OUR FINANCIAL REVIEW

(FINANCIAL YEAR 2015)

2015 was a year of significant change for us at the World Green Building Council. With the approval and implementation of a new strategy, we restructured the organisation and its finances.

As a result, we ended the 2015 financial year with a \$377,551 surplus, which left us with overall assets of \$696,769. This cash position is well in line with our revised cash management policy, which requires WorldGBC to hold at least 30% of its total annual expenditure as assets in cash or investments that carry no restrictions. This allows us to meet our financial commitments and respond to the risk of an economic downturn.

In total our revenue for 2015 was \$1.37 million, a 16% increase on 2014's total of \$1.18 million – a result of our new approach to diversify and increase revenue. We increased corporate sponsorship, grew the number of members on our Corporate Advisory Board, and also brought on board sponsors for Better Places for People.

In 2015, WorldGBC also restructured the way it operates as an organisation to increase efficiency and value for money. This resulted in a 21% drop in operating costs in comparison to 2014. In particular, we moved from a heavy reliance on contractors to the employment of full-time staff who are committed to the growth and success of WorldGBC and our member Green Building Councils.

Over the past financial year, we improved our financial management processes and policies to help us achieve sustainable growth. This included a directive that every WorldGBC Project and Regional Network must generate more revenue than expenditure, and that they contribute to the running costs of the WorldGBC.

Finally, we also implemented new accounts receivable mechanisms to help us collect payments on time and within the relevant fiscal year.

**All of these changes have enabled us to strengthen our financial position in order to dramatically increase our organisational impact and achieve our mission.**

World Green Building Council is a not-for-profit organisation registered in the United States of America. The financial statements of WorldGBC have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, including all assets, liabilities, net assets, and financial activities of the WorldGBC, and in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The WorldGBC Auditor for the financial year 2015, Grant Thornton, has issued an unqualified opinion on the 2015 audited financial statements.

The following financial information has been summarised from the World Green Building Council's audited financial statements. To obtain copies of the completed audited financial statements, please contact the WorldGBC team.

Income  
**\$1,371,736**

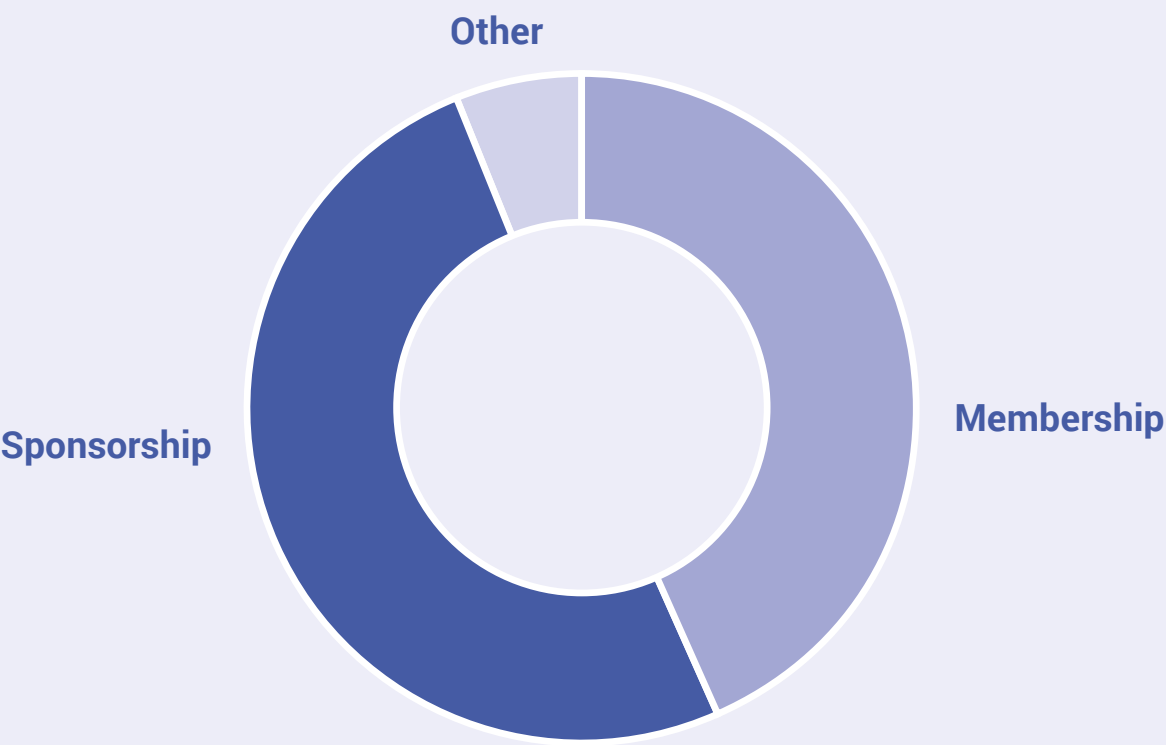
Income increase  
**16%**

Expenditure  
**\$994,185**

Expenditure decrease  
**21%**



HOW WE RAISED OUR MONEY



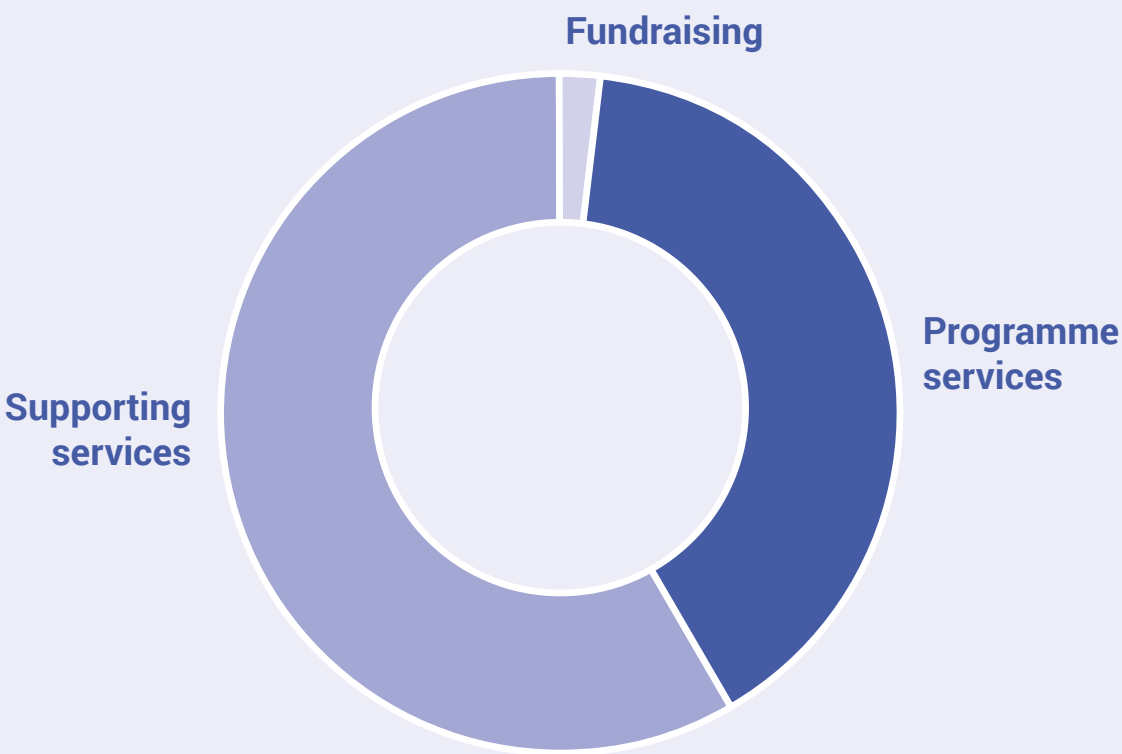
**Membership \$597,250**  
This is the money raised from Green Building Council membership dues.

**Sponsorship \$694,433**  
This is global partnerships, global project sponsors, and Regional Network funders.

**Other**  
Event fees \$48,548  
This is for WorldGBC Congress.  
  
Grants \$23,461  
We received a grant through TRCA.  
  
Reimbursement \$6,214  
Interest \$1,830

**Total income \$1,371,736**

HOW WE SPENT OUR MONEY



**Programme services \$397,172**  
This consists of council development, Regional Networks, and research and development.

**Fundraising \$17,995**  
This accounts for resources spent on fundraising.  
  
**Supporting services \$579,018**  
This includes administration and operations, communications and marketing.

**Total expenditure \$994,185**

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER	2015 (in US\$)	2014 (in US\$)
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
—Cash and cash equivalents	631,748	297,829
—Accounts receivable	37,737	15,345
—Prepaid expenses	19,704	7,783
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>689,189</b>	<b>320,957</b>
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>7,580</b>	<b>7,482</b>
	<b>696,769</b>	<b>328,439</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
—Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	59,571	113,056
—Due to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	9,907	15,108
—Deferred revenue	51,465	2,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>120, 943</b>	<b>130,164</b>
<b>Unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>575,826</b>	<b>198,275</b>
	<b>696,769</b>	<b>328,439</b>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER	2015 (in US\$)	2014 (in US\$)
<b>Unrestricted revenues and support</b>		
Grants		
—Regional Municipality of Peel	23, 461	27,162
Sponsorships		
—Regional networks	265,821	226,142
—Corporate	428,612	262,515
Membership dues	597,250	621,667
Event fees	48,548	35,000
Reimbursement	6,214	7,090
Interest income	1,830	630
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,371,736</b>	<b>1,180,206</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program services		
—Council development	45,255	106,761
—Regional networks	258,168	265,012
—Research and development	93,749	158,007
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>397,172</b>	<b>529,780</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>17,995</b>	<b>60,660</b>
<b>Supporting services</b>		
—Administration	460,807	547,654
—Board expenses	53,735	37,998
—Communications and marketing	21,015	29,384
—Depreciation and amortization	2,624	4,847
—Website development	28,646	38,010
—Foreign exchange loss	12,191	9,478
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>579,018</b>	<b>667,371</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>994,185</b>	<b>1,257,811</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>377,551</b>	<b>(77,605)</b>

# OUR SUPPORTERS

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our 2016 sponsors and funding partners from around the world. It's only because of your fabulous support that we can increasingly position green buildings as an effective solution to environmental, social and economic issues and help national GBCs grow and flourish.

### Our Corporate Advisory Board

Our Corporate Advisory Board is a select group of companies which are global leaders on sustainability, and which serve to guide WorldGBC on its strategy and activities.





“United Technologies wants everyone to know green buildings are healthier for people and our planet. The WorldGBC connects cities and organisations that also recognise the benefit of green building and are dedicated to creating more sustainable built environments.”  
**John Mandyck, Chief Sustainability Officer, United Technologies Corporation**



“At Saint-Gobain, we believe that collaboration is key to accelerate the path towards more sustainable construction. WorldGBC and its Green Building Councils have done an amazing job in creating forums for discussion across the building value chain.”  
**Pierre-André de Chalendar, CEO, Saint-Gobain**



“We are proud partners of WorldGBC. Being part of the global network keeps us up to date with new regulations, standards and technologies. Ultimately, it helps us to reduce our environmental impact and continue enhancing people’s lives through sustainable real-estate.”  
**Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi, Head of Sustainability, Majid Al Futtaim**



“As the green economy develops, CDL will continue its two-decade long commitment to green building. WorldGBC’s global influence and dynamic efforts to push the green building agenda provides CDL with international platforms like the Business & Climate Summit in London to help share our sustainability story.”  
**Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, City Developments Limited**



Better Places for People  
sponsors:



Europe Regional Network  
Partners:



BUILD UPON:

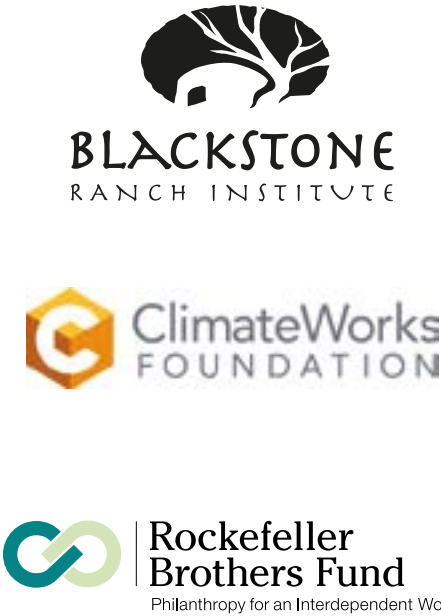


EU Horizon 2020 research  
and innovation programme

MENA Regional Network  
Partner:



Advancing Net Zero:



Building Efficiency  
Accelerator:



COP22:



Pro bono supporters:



“WorldGBC’s project to advance zero net carbon certifications is a promising sign on addressing climate change through the building sector. This evolution towards a zero carbon built environment by 2050 will move the needle dramatically, and we’re delighted to be part of it.”

Michael Northrop, Program Director,  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund





WORLD  
GREEN  
BUILDING  
COUNCIL

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