



**USGBC**  
**ALABAMA**

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## Green Building for Alabama!

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### **Case for Support**

2011



**Hilltop Montessori School**  
Architect: HKW Associates, PC

# Summary Case Statement

## What makes a building 'green'?

### Why does it matter?

Green buildings are energy efficient — using 25 to 50% less energy than conventional buildings. Green buildings tread lightly on the land and use less water and materials. They provide a healthy, productive indoor environment. The 'green' of a building goes beyond the site and connects with the community to create more livable and sustainable towns and cities.

Most of us spend most of our time living and working indoors — in buildings. Why shouldn't all buildings be green? Everyone in Alabama deserves to live and work in a healthier, more sustainable environment. Green building has enormous potential for community development, through cost savings for homeowners, improved health, better community connections, and new job skills.



Robin White (L), USGBC-Alabama 2009 Chair, presents the LEED Silver plaque to Merrill Stewart (R), President, Stewart Perry Construction

### What are we doing?

We are the Alabama Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). We are an independent, 501(c)(3) public charity incorporated in the state of Alabama. Our mission is to transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life in Alabama. We do this through education, tapping into the green expertise of our members in the building professions and trades.

To fully carry out our mission, we must reach beyond the building practitioners and involve everyone in our state. We are

focusing our education efforts on Green Homes, Green Schools, and Green Leaders. To do this we need to hire staff to organize education programs in all four of our branch areas and organize our large volunteer corps. This is why we have launched our 2010-2011 campaign, **Green Building for Alabama!**

## THE MISSION OF USGBC ALABAMA

To transform the way buildings and communities are designed, built and operated, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life in Alabama.

## The Goal: Every citizen of Alabama becomes an active participant in the green building movement

- *Homeowners and home buyers* will be ready to specify, construct and operate more energy-efficient and healthy homes.
- *School officials, teachers, and parents* will understand and advocate for greener schools for our children.
- *Municipal officials and community leaders* will have the necessary knowledge to plan for green initiatives that deliver cost savings, better health, and resource conservation in their area.
- *The local workforce* will have access to green building credentials that will make them more marketable in the new green economy



We regularly convene and educate the decision makers in the building industry, such as this roundtable of architects, engineers, owners and builders in Huntsville.

### How can I get involved?

There are lots of ways you can support USGBC-Alabama and the **Green Building** campaign. Everyone is welcome to join USGBC-Alabama. Full-time students are given a discount. (Membership sign-up is available through our website, [www.usgbcocal.org](http://www.usgbcocal.org)) Alabama businesses are invited to join USGBC - Alabama and help build a consortium of green leaders. There are a number of opportunities to sponsor annual operations as well as special events.

USGBC-Alabama's mission is aligned with the philanthropic goals of Alabama's charitable foundations. We are working with you in community development — creating more livable, sustainable and profitable communities for everyone in our state.

### We invite you to be a part of Green Building for Alabama!

Andrew York, Chair; 256-534-2353  
T.J. Fincher, Chair, Birmingham Branch, 205-226-1936  
Scott Beck, Chair, North Alabama Branch, 256-461-0568  
Rebecca Bryant, Chair, Gulf Coast Branch; 251-517-5214  
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