



# USGBC Newsletter

## January 2012

### Monthly Membership Meeting and Luncheon

USGBC Central Iowa Monthly Membership Meeting will be hosted by the **USGBC Iowa Programming Committee** who will discuss the results of the recent member survey as well as share information on important changes to 2012 programming including enhancements to the webinar series and other chapter educational programming. Catherine Fought, incoming Chapter Chair will also share important details on membership and other opportunities. This is a can't miss 2012 Kick-off Event with relevant information for members from across the State. We hope to see you there!

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**WHERE:** Stoney Creek Conference Center, 5291 Stoney Creek Point, Johnston, IA 50131

**AGENDA:**

11:30 AM - Sign in, networking

11:30-12:15 PM – lunch served

*Lunch will be Barattas Chicken Amaggio with Mixed Vegetables, Mixed Salad, Homemade rolls and Dessert.*

12:15-1:15 - **Program: USGBC Iowa Programming Committee 2012 Kick-off Event**

1:15-1:30 PM - Networking

**REGISTER:** To meet the various needs of our members and guests we will offer a lunch and presentation option and a presentation only option. Those who choose presentation only unfortunately WILL NOT be able to bring a brown bag lunch to this event. This is an informational session only and a certificate of completion will not be provided at the close of the session. Both options are available to members and non-members. Price varies based on membership status. \$5 USGBC Iowa Chapter members presentation only, \$15 non-members presentation only, \$20 USGBC Iowa Chapter members lunch and presentation, \$30 non-members lunch and presentation. A modest processing fee will be added to all ticket options.

Registration required on Eventbrite. Please be sure to register in advance so we can effectively determine our food and room size needs. **You can register through end of day Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the food counts.** After this date you can continue to register for one of the Presentation only options. **Click here to register:** <http://usgbccentraliowajanaury.eventbrite.com>

### Greening the Heartland Conference 2012

The Greening the Heartland Conference is scheduled for May 16 – 18, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Indiana Convention Center.

The deadline for proposals to present at this year's conference has been extended to **January 31, 2012**. For more information and proposal details, log onto Greening the Heartland [website](#).

## USGBC – Iowa Chapter New Sponsors

Founded in 1977, The Weidt Group was established to account for and manage the environmental impacts of building design and construction. By 1985, The Weidt Group began to emerge as a pioneering software design firm creating tools for architects, engineers and manufacturers. Today The Weidt Group is a market leader in object-oriented software—creating virtual products to model and manage complexities of the real world. These energy and software components of the firm embrace a common set of values that include:

- Integrity in all dealings
- Strong respect for the natural environment
- High quality work with very satisfied clients
- Respect for scientific understanding/ knowledge

For more information log onto [twgi.com/Default.aspx](http://twgi.com/Default.aspx)



## Eastern Iowa Branch Information

### Live Presentation: LEED & Acoustics, Can You Hear Me Now?

USGBC Eastern Iowa Branch will host a Live Presentation: **LEED & Acoustics, Can You Hear Me Now?** Sponsored by KJWW Engineering Consultants. Modern building design utilizes advances in systems, materials, manufacturing, and construction techniques to produce buildings that use less energy, with materials that are more sensitive to our environment (both inside and out). However, acoustics, noise, and vibration issues are on the rise. There is a perception that a sustainable building is ‘harder’ and ‘noisier’ than traditional buildings. Building designers and owners must be aware of these potential issues in the design of new buildings and ensure that designs incorporate the necessary features to address them. The USGBC recognizes the need for Owners, Architects, and Engineers to consider the room acoustics and noise isolation of buildings and has established acoustical criteria in several LEED rating systems. This seminar explores the acoustical criteria in LEED and how these apply to architectural and engineering design. Course participants will first develop a common understanding of acoustical concepts via a brief introduction to basic theory including live demonstration, and then will dive into the criteria established in LEED for Schools, LEED for Healthcare, and the pilot credit for acoustics. Case studies and example projects will highlight course concepts. The target audiences are Owners, Architects, Engineers, and Consultants who want a deeper understanding of the acoustical criteria in LEED and how to apply course concepts and design strategies discussed to LEED projects.

**Course counts for 1.5 GBCI CE hours under ‘Live Presentations’.**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 17, 2012 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Offices of KJWW Engineering Consultants, 626 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

**AGENDA:** 5:30 Networking and Dinner, 6:00 Presentation

**REGISTER:** \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. A modest processing fee will be added to all ticket options.

Registration required on Eventbrite. Please be sure to register in advance so we can effectively determine our food and room size needs. **You can register through end of day Sunday, January 15, 2012 when food counts will be provided to the caterer.** You can continue to register after this date and we will do our best to accommodate you. **Click here to register:** <http://usgbceasterniowaleedacoustics.eventbrite.com>

## The Eastern Iowa Branch announces its 2012 Event Calendar

The Eastern Iowa Branch Programming Committee has organized a diverse group of program offerings for 2012. With options like live presentations and facility tours, socials, community outreach, and awards programs, you can expect something different every time. The committee's ongoing goal is to provide a good mix of quality education and CEU opportunities along with a bit of fun and 2012's calendar certainly meets that goal. So 'Save the Dates' listed below and join us. Here's to a great 2012!

January 17, 5:30-7:30pm, LEED & Acoustics, KJWW office, Davenport

February 9, 5:30-7:30pm, Q1 Event: Energy Management, University of Iowa, Iowa City

February 24, Dinner CEU Webinar, Cedar Rapids

March 16, Lunch CEU Webinar

March 29, Dinner CEU Webinar

April 18, 7:30-10am, Q2 Event: Partnership with Corridor Business Journal's Green Symposium, Hotel Vetro, Iowa City

May 10, Volunteer clean-up event

July 24, Q3 Event: K-12 Outreach Program

August 28, Sustainability and Liability Presentation

October 11, Q4 Event: Cedar Ridge Winery Social, Swisher

## Eastern Iowa Branch Volunteer Opportunity

The Eastern Iowa Branch is looking for volunteers to serve on the Programming Committee. If you'd like a voice in the types of programs the branch provides (and fulfill CE hours at the same time), then contact the committee chair, Matt Krieger, at [mkrieger@neumannmonson.com](mailto:mkrieger@neumannmonson.com).

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## Company Highlights

### Eastern Iowa Company Goes Green



Energy Consultants Group located in Anamosa has started construction on a 6.5kW Solar Photovoltaic System for their office. The purpose of this project is to become energy independent and control overhead cost in energy. As a consultant and providing sales and installation of energy efficiency and renewable systems, it is important that we live the life style as well. To have a PV system onsite would be beneficial for promotion of the company as well as educational for the general public.

Performance and financial data will be made available on site and thru ECG web site for live analysis of system. This project is phase III of a long term plan to become net zero.

Phase II was completed in late 2010 when an energy efficiency retro of the property was performed. This included new LED lighting, HVAC, solar ready water heater, energy star roof, radiant barriers, more insulation, new doors, sealing and weatherproofing as well as automation controls for lighting and power systems.

Phase IV will complete the net zero project, adding another 6.5kw PV system and solar heating/cooling system that will also produce domestic hot water. The property will be net zero in grid purchased power, fossil fuel and produce zero emissions.

This PV array nameplate capacity is 6.5KwDC and will produce 7.1Kw per year of clean, renewable energy from the sun. Energy Consultants Group chose this type of setup and technology for its simplicity, quick return on investment and maintenance free operation.

This 6.5 Kw PV project consist of 28 Yingli Green Energy 235w modules. The 60 cell polycrystalline unit rated at 14.7 efficiency. The panel will be arranged with 28 modules in 2 rows in portrait mode using AET (Applied Energy Technologies) T6 Ground Mount System. The Power One, PVI-6000 Invertor will convert the DC energy to AC energy to be used at the load center and to the grid. This unit is 97% efficient. The invertor will be mounted on the wall next to the existing 200amp service panel and setup for two strings of 14 modules boasting 97% efficiency.

The ROI is under 5.5 years and once achieved, the renewable energy system will have saved about \$5,000.00 in utility costs and will save around \$50,000.00 over the 25 year life expectancy. This system will also add considerable value to the property and be exempt from property tax assessment for 5 years. The system will capture the federal incentives along with the Alliant Energy rebate offsetting half the cost of the project. This project was made possible by funding from the Iowa Energy Center, Collins Community Credit Union and Linda Mangler, private investor.

For more information on this project and others, feel free to visit Energy Consultants Group web site [www.ecgllp.com](http://www.ecgllp.com) or call [319-462-5600](tel:319-462-5600) to make arrangements for an onsite visit. The project is scheduled to be commissioned by Mid-February.

## Energy Dashboards Are Evolving

Technology is rapidly changing the building industry and the momentum doesn't look to be slowing down anytime soon. Energy dashboards have evolved significantly during the past few years; originally for the purpose of reviewing complex building information, now it's commonplace to share this information with the building occupants. Interactive technology has allowed this energy data to be more visual, and more importantly – more accessible.

Adding occupants to the equation has greatly changed how energy dashboards are presented. For occupants, this information must have more of an educational focus and be easier to understand than the technical monitoring that an operations team would review. This is something that QA Graphics continues to focus on. The company has been an industry leader in making building concepts more visual, from BAS graphics for behind the scenes, to high-end equipment models and animations for marketing needs, and energy dashboards for the purpose of educating building occupants. QA Graphics has helped define how the solutions should differ when used by the two audiences, how facility management relies on energy dashboards for key performance indicators, whereas occupants need much more basic data for education. QA Graphics has worked to introduce the term, energy education dashboards, to clarify the importance of the educational aspect for occupants. The company has presented this concept at several industry conferences, including the 2011 Green California Schools Summit, 2011 Iowa Energy Summit, and the 2010 Sustainable Solutions Conference, highlighting how education is a big differentiator when sharing building data with occupants.

Another factor that may change the use of energy dashboards in 2012 is how organizations can further involve occupants as part of their energy reduction strategies. A recent study shows that occupants can make a larger impact on overall building performance than previously thought. The study, Sensitivity Analysis: Comparing the Impact of Design, Operation, and Tenant Behavior on Building Energy Performance, released by the New Building Institute, was designed to compare operational energy-use characteristics to the impact of what is typically considered building design characteristics. In summary, the study shows that occupants have a greater impact on building performance than thought, illustrating that not only is the design of a building detrimental to building performance, but also the operation and policy strategies. As a result, the study recommends “the installation of submetering and energy-use dashboards can contribute to effective strategies to help tenants understand and reduce their energy usage” (NBI 27).



Providing a dashboard with this continuous feedback is a great start for occupant awareness, but a long-term plan beyond just showing the data is also required. The information must educate and keep occupants informed, as part of an organization's ongoing strategies to encourage lifestyle changes and not just temporary efforts. A third-party dashboard, separate from the building management system, is ideal because it allows the solution to be aligned with the organization's overall initiatives for the occupants without having to worry about the technical requirements that a dashboard used behind the scenes must consist of.

QA Graphics has been at the forefront of this industry, having provided their Energy Efficiency Education Dashboard solution for years now and recommends using a third-party solution like this for occupant awareness. Using a third-party solution complements the traditional energy management system. It's not performing the monitoring, but taking the data that's already available and presenting it in a way so that it's more visual and easy to understand. It also allows an organization to be more creative and engage the occupants with interactive features like demos, games and quizzes. The solution can also be much more social, with fun competitions to encourage resource savings. Another benefit is that third-party solutions are protocol based, and therefore not tied to a single building automation system vendor. If a facility changes vendors or makes an upgrade to their building management system, the educational dashboard can still function properly.

It's an exciting time to help organizations share this information and get occupants involved in their initiatives. As energy dashboards continue to evolve, building performance will be something that's more visual and more accessible for everyone, anywhere, anytime. As technology continues to evolve, so will the industry, changing to be a more interactive, social, and mobile market.

#### **About QA Graphics**

QA Graphics works with organizations of all types throughout North America providing their solution, the Energy Efficiency Education Dashboard, to help educate and inform occupants about building efficiency. For more information, visit [www.qagraphics.com/eed](http://www.qagraphics.com/eed).

## **Next Chapter Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be issued during the first week of February. If you have news or information that you would like to share with the USGBC Iowa Chapter membership, please send to the Communications Committee at [beckymigas@gmail.com](mailto:beckymigas@gmail.com) by *January 22, 2012*.

Thank You!

**PLEASE NOTE:** If your company has a baracudda spam filter, please be sure to put [usgbc Iowa@assocserv.com](mailto:usgbc Iowa@assocserv.com) on your safe sender list to ensure you are receiving all chapter communications.

**Interested in sponsor opportunities for USGBC Iowa or speaking at a monthly meeting? Contact the USGBC Iowa office for more information at [usgbc Iowa@assocserv.com](mailto:usgbc Iowa@assocserv.com).**

**Remember to connect with USGBC Iowa Socially on Facebook and LinkedIn!**

## **USGBC Iowa Sponsors:**

