



The **Vancouver Economic Development Commission**, an agency of the City of Vancouver, works to strengthen the city's economic future by helping existing businesses, attracting investment, researching the business environment and making policy recommendations.

## Media Backgrounder

### GREEN BUILDINGS

#### 1.0 Industry Snapshot

##### **Overview**

Metro Vancouver's status as an early adopter of sustainable design, combined with a policy commitment to green building and sustainable urban planning, offers a healthy market for producers of green materials and technologies.

##### **Sub-sectors**

Architects, engineers and general contractors (or the AEC community) in Metro Vancouver have been early adopters of green building technologies and strategies. Successful segments of the local industry include: LED lighting, paints and coatings, art glass, geo-exchange, cement and concrete and wood products, in addition to the many internationally-recognized AEC firms that export their expertise globally. The green building sector comprises participants from a cross-section of industries and strong linkages exist with the advanced energy sector in areas such as power monitoring and management.

##### **Top Industry Performers**

One of Metro Vancouver's leading green building consulting firms, Busby Perkins + Will, designed the Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability at UBC, which is at the frontier of sustainable design and operations. Top green developers include Millennium Group (Olympic Village), Windmill (Dockside Green), Vancity Enterprises (Verdant), Streamline Development (build only LEED) and Adera (build to BuiltGreen standards). One of the larger integrated design and construction firm is Omicron, which leverages the integrated design process to deliver a range of LEED certified commercial and institutional facilities and to undertake green retrofits to existing buildings. This company built the LEED Gold Vancouver City Works Yard. Prism Engineering is considered Metro Vancouver's leading energy efficiency retrofit engineering firm.

##### **Growth and Trends**

The green building sector has transformed considerably over the last decade. Consumers have become more environmentally savvy, and the B.C. government and local municipalities are demonstrating environmental leadership by introducing stricter building codes to meet

greenhouse gas reduction targets. In the city of Vancouver for example, all applications for rezoning should meet minimum LEED Silver. This is rapidly growing the market for green building technologies.

## 2.0 Sector Incentives and Support

BC's primary electric utility company, BC Hydro, encourages energy conservation and offers incentives for energy-efficient upgrades to consumers.

Also, BC Hydro operates two valuable commercial programs: The High-Performance Building Program and a Product Incentive Program. The High-Performance Building Program provides rebates to develop a high-performance design in new commercial and residential buildings. The Product Incentive Program provides incentives for business that retrofit existing facilities with energy efficient products.

## 3.0 Resource Organizations

### → Canada Green Building Council

A national non-profit organization based in Vancouver comprised of public and private builders. Developed and administers LEED Canada programs

[www.cagbc.ca](http://www.cagbc.ca)

### → Light House Sustainable Building Centre

Vancouver based non-profit organization offering a comprehensive point of service for green building to businesses and the public. Light House showcases over 40 companies in the green building sector in over 5,400sf of interactive displays. Light House also advances public sector programs and private sector initiatives through business-to-business networking, community engagement, research, partnership development, technical assistance and consulting services. Opening hours during the Olympics 10am – 6pm 7 days..

[www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com](http://www.sustainablebuildingcentre.com)

### → Cascadia Green Building Council

Cascadia's mission is to promote the design, construction and operation of buildings in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live, work and learn

[www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org)

### → Metro Vancouver – Buildsmart Program

BuildSmart is a program developed and administered by Metro Vancouver to encourage the use of green building strategies and technologies

[www.metrovancouver.org/buildsmart/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.metrovancouver.org/buildsmart/Pages/default.aspx)

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