The New York Academy of Sciences

# Opportunities & Importance of Green Buildings in a Low-Carbon Economy

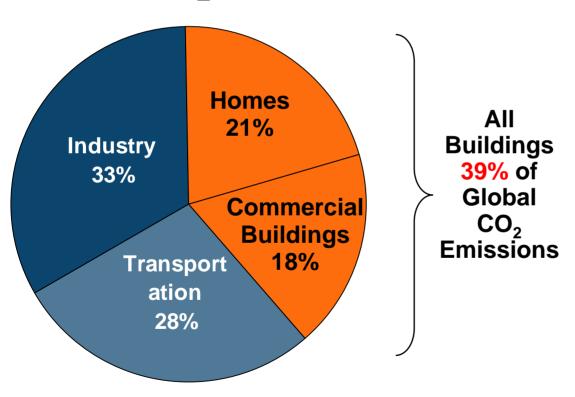
Harvey M. Bernstein, F.ASCE, LEED AP Vice President

Global Thought Leadership & Business Development McGraw-Hill Construction



### Buildings: The Largest CO<sub>2</sub> Emitter

#### Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions by Sector



Electricity Use in U.S.

70% Used by All Buildings, of which 43% is commercial

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Building Energy Databook, 2008



### **Construction = 10% of Global GDP**

#### **Global Construction Output (2008)**

Total: \$5.6 trillion





### Opportunity in Existing Nonresidential Buildings

#### According to MHC Building Stock Database & Construction Forecast, in '08/'09:

- → Total building stock (nonresidential) in 2008:
  - 4.4 million+ buildings¹
  - New: 1.4 billion sq. ft. (1.8% of total)
  - Existing: 75+ billion sq.ft. (98.2%)
- → 2009 Construction Spending:
  - New: \$196 billion
  - Major renovation: \$60-80 billion only a small percentage of buildings
- Green Market Size:
  - Today: \$34 billion (5-10% all nonresidential buildings)
  - Five Years: \$85 billion (20% new; 30% existing)
  - To meet Kyoto standards, approximately two-thirds of existing commercial buildings would need to be retrofit

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration



## **Business Benefits of Green Building Are Increasing**

**2005** 

→ Decreased Operating Costs: 8-9%

→ Increased Building Values: 7.5%

→ Improvement in ROI: 6.6%

→ Increased Occupancy: 3.5%

→ Rent Rise: 3.0%

2008

13.6%

10.9%

9.9%

6.4%

6.1%

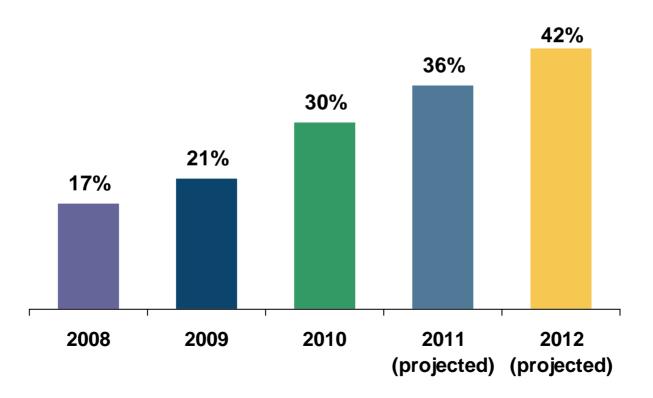
Green Building saves up to 50% in energy costs, leading to 33%-39% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

### **Green Building Also Makes Cities Healthier & People More Productive**

Source: Commercial & Institutional Green Building SmartMarket Report, McGraw-Hill Construction, 2008

## Corporations Increasing Investment in Green Building

Growth in Corporate Green Building Over Time Firms with Over 60% of Building Portfolio Green





### **Buildings Are Critical in U.S. Climate Action Plans**

- → Obama Administration climate control strategy has focus on energy efficiency in buildings
- → Drive to net-zero energy buildings key priority of the U.S. Department of Energy
- → U.S. states & local governments driving CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction through green buildings:
  - Policy explosion from 2005 → 2009\*:

• State: 13 → 31

• Local: 57 → 253

\* Through 11/1/09



### Green Wins in Stimulus Legislation: Renovation Gets a Boost in Green

- → Much of Public Building \$\$ to Green Renovation Projects
  - GSA  $\rightarrow$  \$4.5 billion
  - DOD  $\rightarrow$  \$4.2 billion
  - VA → \$1 billion
- → Tax breaks for Residential **Energy Efficiency expanded &** extended

However, Time for Funding Allocation is Slow

75% (\$1.5 billion) of GSA's 2009 \$\$ has been allocated

Only \$89 million paid out



### **Concluding Observation**

#### Mandates on Utilities Will Place Burden on Building Owners

- → Because buildings use so much electricity and energy (70%), they will be at the forefront of any U.S. climate reduction strategy that emerges
- → Utilities will pass costs on to building and home owners



