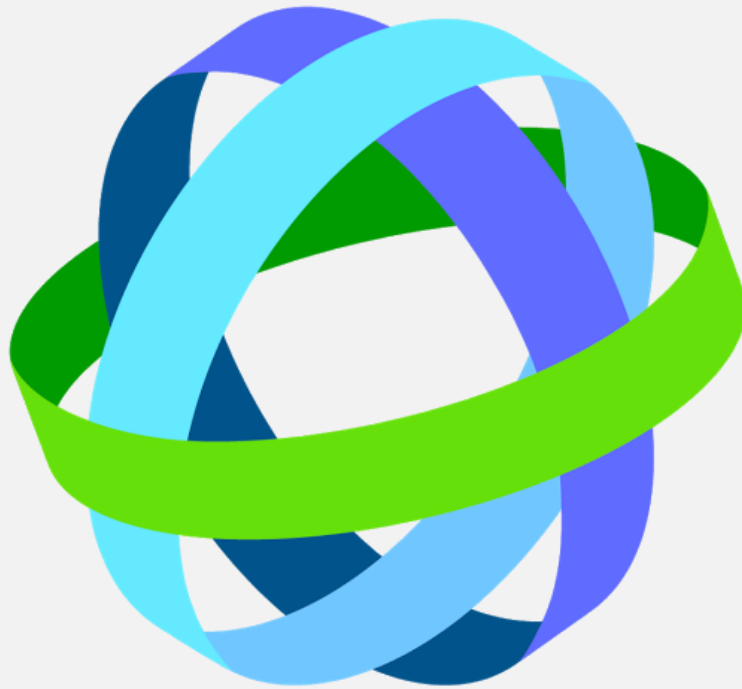


August 15, 2016

City of Tshwane one of only four cities globally to participate in WorldGBC pilot study



**WORLD
GREEN
BUILDING
COUNCIL**

The Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) will join forces with its counterparts in Colombia, Emirates and Poland to dramatically ramp up energy efficiency within buildings, under a new partnership between the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) and the World Resources Institute-led Building Efficiency Accelerator (BEA).

Each GBC will work with mayors and staff in the cities of Tshwane, Bogota, Dubai and Warsaw under the BEA in a bid to double the rate of energy efficiency by 2030.

The BEA is one of six accelerators of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative led by the United Nations Secretary-General, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Cities that commit to the BEA agree to implement at least one new building energy efficiency policy or programme in 2016-2017. The policy/programme can be whatever the city government feels is a priority, though the BEA partnership offers city staff expertise from partners in six main thematic areas: building codes; building

certifications/above-code programs; existing building retrofits; energy efficiency finance solutions; and building data tracking.

As one of the larger delivery partners under the BEA, WorldGBC and the participating Green Building Councils are turning climate finance into concrete, timely and measurable action in cities in the wake of COP21. This includes Green Building Councils providing direct support to the city governments mentioned above, while WorldGBC will primarily share resources and build capacity around the value of green building certification programmes which can operate at a national but also local level.

Announcing the partnership at the Green Building Council of South Africa's annual convention in Johannesburg in late July, Terri Wills, CEO of the World Green Building Council, said: "Cities and the buildings which make them up consume around 75 per cent of global energy, putting them at the coal face of our fight against climate change. Given that two thirds of the world's population are expected to live in cities by 2050, this places a further demand for buildings that are energy efficient and that enable a high quality of life.

"But whilst they are a major consumer of energy, cities also have huge potential to dramatically reduce energy use, with buildings offering one of the most effective ways to do so. Through collaboration with cities, our Green Building Councils will provide on-the-ground expertise to help realise this opportunity."

Brian Wilkinson, CEO of the Green Building Council of South Africa, said: "We value our strong working relationships with a number of cities across South Africa. When the City of Tshwane expressed an interest to us and WRI to join the Building Efficiency Accelerator, we didn't hesitate to offer our expertise.

"Helping the city to establish a policy or programme that will make a meaningful impact on the energy efficiency of its buildings is fundamental to our mission, and we're delighted to be involved in this partnership through WorldGBC."

Further Green Building Councils are expected to join the BEA through WorldGBC as the partnership develops.

*Note: The GBCSA is calling for stakeholders to participate in the Technical Advisory Panel for the locally applicable Green Star – Communities rating tool. These stakeholders will provide comment for the resultant Local Context Report which will, in turn, inform an effective and viable mechanism for introducing the Green Star – Communities tool within the South African context.

For more information on the requirements and how to apply: [GBCSA Green Star – Communities – Call for Stakeholder Engagement – 2016-08 – Rev 1](#)