



USGBC-LA Launches 'HEALTHY BUILDING ALLIANCE' Just as COVID-19 Highlights the Importance of Healthy Buildings

The Alliance is a Commitment to Air & Water Quality, Green Space

LOS ANGELES (May 27, 2020) The [U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles Chapter](#) (USGBC-LA) today officially launches the Healthy Building Alliance (HBA). The Alliance is a *commitment* – not a certification – that all building owners, office tenants, multi-family and affordable housing managers, and individuals can make to provide healthy, resilient space to live, work, and play. People typically spend 90% of their time in enclosed spaces (homes, offices, schools, etc.); even more over the last few months. While not anticipating the current COVID-19 situation when the Alliance planning began in early 2019, the timing could not be more appropriate.

The [Healthy Building Alliance](#) launch coincides with the increased *interest in and awareness of the necessity* to create healthy spaces, as people begin to consider when and *how* to return to work confidently, or even work and live better and more safely from home. To do this, a localized and equitable framework that provides better data and engagement from everyone involved is needed.

The Healthy Building Alliance commitment entails five simple principles around building and occupant health - *Indoor Air Quality Monitoring, Green Cleaning, Access to Nature, Inspiring Movement, and Water Testing* - and helps those who make the commitment collect invaluable data about themselves and their environment through Tenant Surveys, Indoor Air Quality Sensors, and Water Testing. That data will be paired with resources provided by USGBC-LA and its partners – to help make the Healthy Building Alliance accessible and replicable for all in the LA region and beyond.

“People want to provide healthy spaces for themselves and their peers, but it has long been too complicated and, for many, too daunting to start on that journey,” states Ben Stapleton, USGBC-LA, “Our goal is to instill ownership, generate valuable data, and provide resources to support the journey for all Angelenos to benefit from access to healthy environments. The crisis we are experiencing around COVID-19 underscores the importance of the spaces we occupy and equity as part of the conversation.”

Data is key to the Healthy Building Alliance’s goals of healthier buildings. For instance, data on indoor air quality – which can be 2-5x worse than outdoor air quality – and local water quality is needed for all types of buildings, and will be tested annually as part of the program. Surveys around occupant fitness and activity, urban greening sources, and green cleaning will be taken, with direction provided to address their improvement. In housing, greater evidence links poorly constructed, maintained and located buildings to many health

conditions, and in offices, 50% of illnesses affecting workforces are related to work environment conditions.

Building operators may want healthier spaces, but they often lack the data to make the case for long-term investment and action. The HBA commitment to data gathering will help make that case, leading to healthier buildings which focus more on: energy efficiency and water conservation, lower utility bills, improved daily quality of life (including water and air), and overall better health and productivity.

"Ensuring that we have healthy buildings is not only something we truly believe in to improve the health of the Los Angeles built environment, but is a critical business strategy at KRC," states Sara Neff, Senior Vice President of Sustainability, Kilroy Realty Corporation. "A recent study indicated that a \$20/sf investment in healthy building upgrades can lead to \$129/sf in value in commercial office buildings, and we believe building owners need this information to make wise investment decisions in their assets. We look forward to partnering with USGBC-LA on this important initiative."

The cost of the program is simple: \$500 for a building owner or tenant's first space, \$250 for each additional space up to 10, and \$100 per space for portfolios of 10 or more per year. A waiver can be requested for free access for those experiencing hardship.

"My clients are calling every day asking about wellness strategies, especially in the face of Covid-19, and the Healthy Building Alliance provides guidance at an economical price that will truly benefit the small and medium sized organizations. We look forward to working with [USGBC-LA] to help this mission grow. The healthier our space, the safer our space," states Melissa Gutierrez-Sullivan, Vice President, Sustainability and Wellness Services, Cushman & Wakefield.

At launch, Healthy Building Alliance partners include ArcSkoru, Building Skills Partnership, Cushman & Wakefield, Hudson Pacific Properties, Jones Lang LaSalle Inc., Kilroy Realty Corporation, LADWP, Metropolitan Water District, Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH), SEIU United Service Workers West, and UL.

For more information on the [Healthy Building Alliance](#) and on USGBC-LA, please contact Ben Stapleton at ben@usgbc-la.org or Fernanda Zuin at fernanda@usgbc-la.org.

About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission promotes sustainability in LA County's built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. (www.usgbc-la.org)

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HEALTHY BUILDING ALLIANCE PARTNER QUOTES

“We set our properties apart by providing environments that promote wellness and resiliency for our employees, tenants and neighbors. Our partnership with the Healthy Building Alliance exemplifies our commitment to superior building performance and operational efficiencies as occupant health and safety remain our top priority.”

Natalie Tear, Vice President, Sustainability and Social Impact, Hudson Pacific Properties

"We are proud to join with USGBC-LA as an inaugural partner of the Healthy Building Alliance. Now, more than ever, places matter to the future of protecting our families, our businesses and the public at large, and collaborative efforts like this play an important role in helping us accelerate the creation of places that advance health and well-being for everyone, everywhere."

Rachel Gutter, President, International WELL Building Institute

“UL is proud to support the Healthy Building Alliance with USGBC-LA. The commitment to making healthier, more resilient buildings directly aligns with UL’s mission of working for a safer world, and we are looking forward to providing our expertise and support USGBC-LA with air and water quality testing for this program.”

Alberto Uggetti, Vice President & General Manager, UL Environment & Sustainability

"As the collective voice of the affordable housing industry, the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH) is proud to support the Healthy Building Alliance in common cause with the USGBC-LA. Nonprofit developers are committed to making safe, affordable, and healthy homes for low-income Southern Californians, so we look forward to working with developers, owners, subject matter experts, and residents to ensure we all equally benefit from healthy environments."

Alan Greenlee, Executive Director, SCANPH

"Since founding Rising Realty Partners, we have made health, wellness, and sustainability top priorities for our company. We firmly stand by this commitment and are proud to be a part of the USGBC Healthy Building Alliance."

Chris Rising, Co-Founder & CEO, Rising Realty Partners

“Metropolitan is committed to ensuring its employees work in a safe, healthy environment, including providing work spaces that promote physical and mental well-being. The Health Building Alliance’s five key steps will help us further this commitment.”

Rick Duarte, M.L.S., Construction and Engineering Sustainability, Business Outreach Program, Metropolitan Water District (MWD)

"Through training programs focusing on sustainable practices such as green cleaning techniques, janitors who are members of the SEIU United Service Workers West (USWW) are leading on keeping our buildings safe, healthy and efficient for tenants and the general public."

David Huerta, President, SEIU United Service Workers West

"Great job USGBC-LA on creating a healthy building program for organizations that want to pursue health and wellness in a cost-effective, practical and easily achievable way that engages occupants! My clients are calling every day asking about wellness strategies, especially in the face of Covid-19, and the Healthy Building Alliance provides guidance at an economical price that will truly benefit the small and medium sized organizations. We look forward to working with you to help this mission grow. The healthier our space, the safer our space."

Melissa Gutierrez-Sullivan, WELL Faculty, WELL AP, LEED AP, Fitwel Ambassador, Vice President, Sustainability and Wellness Services, Cushman & Wakefield

"Ensuring that we have healthy buildings is not only something we truly believe in to improve the health of the Los Angeles built environment, but is a critical business strategy at KRC. A recent study indicated that a \$20/sf investment in healthy building upgrades can lead to \$129/sf in value in commercial office buildings, and we believe building owners need this information to make wise investment decisions in their assets. We look forward to partnering with USGBC-LA on this important initiative."

Sara Neff, Senior Vice President of Sustainability, Kilroy Realty Corporation

"Building water health is a critical part of protecting employees, tenants, customers and residents. Poorly managed systems are at risk of waterborne *Legionella* amplification and other concerns. Not all buildings are created equal, and a sound water management program is key to your building's resiliency, whether operating at full capacity or shuttered during a crisis."

Chris Boyd, General Manager, Building Water Health Program, NSF International

"An international scientific consultancy, CETEC is committed to creating a groundswell of informed demand for healthy buildings because that will super-charge our sustainability transition. The Healthy Building Alliance does just that by putting actionable insight into the hands of occupants, removing barriers for engaging with the key influence on our health and wellbeing: our spaces. CETEC is proud to support USGBC-LA in this important initiative."

Elena Bondareva, WELL AP, LEED Legacy, Vice President: Growth, CETEC

"Building Skills Partnership is proud to partner with USGBC-LA and the Healthy Building Alliance. We are committed to identifying solutions that reduce the environmental footprint of buildings, while collaborating towards a goal of healthy and resilient spaces to live, work, and play. Our Green Janitor Education Program plays a critical role in training janitors to respond to the need within these spaces for sustainable cleaning practices. We are delighted that USGBC-

LA and the Healthy Building Alliance for the greater Los Angeles region have implemented Green Cleaning as a core principle.”

Laura Medina, Chief Operating Officer, Building Skills Partnership