Call for Session Proposals

Greenbuild International Conference & Expo

October 19-22, 2027
Chicago, IL

Greenbuild is now accepting proposals for on-site presentations to be delivered in-person in 2027.

Join us this year to be part of a transformative event where innovation, education, and investment converge to shape a sustainable future through outstanding educational sessions, renowned speakers, special seminars and networking events.

Click here for more information on Greenbuild's Content Categories and Topics

Greenbuild features educational sessions covering all aspects of sustainable design, construction and operations practices for buildings and communities, including their impact on people, the environment and the economy both domestically and globally.

All proposals must be submitted online at:

https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/login.asp?EventKey=AUGBMTTP

You may begin the process and return to your saved proposal any time up until the deadline.

All complete proposals must be submitted by Friday, January 29, 2027 at 11:59 pm EST.

All proposals must be complete, comprehensive and deemed relevant and timely to the Greenbuild audience. The Greenbuild Program Team may shorten a presentation, increase and/or reduce the number of presenters, select alternate presenters from among those proposed and/or combine the submitted presentation with other proposed presentations, at its sole discretion. All presenters will be contacted independently to confirm their submittal.

Refer to the **Conference Session Submittal Guide** for detailed submission instructions and please contact program@greenbuildexpo.com if you have any questions.

***** Important Process Notes *****

In an effort to increase the quality of education session proposals and decrease duplicate proposal submissions, the proposal submitter will be charged a non-refundable, one-time processing fee of $25 for each education session proposal submitted. This will also allow us to be most efficient with the time

~~Information Classification: General~~

of over 250 volunteer proposal reviewers. 100% of the fee proceeds will be donated to the Greenbuild Legacy Project.

Greenbuild Priorities

The following priorities have been identified for the 2027 program. However, Greenbuild remains committed to delivering a broad spectrum of education topics to reach our diverse attendees which is represented in the list below:

1. **Rating System-Specific Sessions:** We are seeking sessions that teach attendees about the current versions of the rating systems by providing specific, detailed information and guidance about the credit intents and requirements, supplemented with real world experiences with the LEED, WELL and SITES rating systems. Our goal is to provide attendees with at least fifteen (15) general continuing education (CE) hours per year toward credential maintenance, including the opportunity to earn three (3) rating system-specific hours. Please consult this resource for guidance on how to develop a rating system-specific session.
2. **A Diverse Experience through Education:** Greenbuild is proud to provide a variety of education formats to meet the needs of our diverse audience of professionals and are encouraging proposals that include:
    - **Immersive and Experiential Learning:** Greenbuild aims to provide a breadth of educational opportunities for all learning styles and is seeking proposals that offer appropriately distanced immersive learning experiences, including elements such as technology, deep reflection, play-based learning and active participation.
    - **Expert-Level Sessions:** Greenbuild has a firm commitment to providing educational content for the current and future generations of green building experts. We are seeking an increase in the diversity and volume of Expert-Level (formerly known as 400-level) sessions that present detailed reviews of specific topics or work on cutting edge issues. Full description located here.
    - **Inspirational Content:** Greenbuild is calling for education that not only imparts knowledge but inspires action. Proposals are evaluated, in part, on whether or not it offers innovative or inspirational content to green building professionals.

Greenbuild Presentation Topics

Program Key Words	Examples
Adaptive Reuse and Historic Preservation	Historic Preservation; Rehabilitation; Restoration; Adaptive Reuse; Office-to-Residential Conversion; Deep Retrofit of Existing Buildings; Design Responses to Local Climate, Codes, and Heritage Districts; Community Participation; Historic Building Energy Upgrades; Historic Tax Credits; Deconstruction and Material Salvage; Whole-Life Carbon Benefits of Reuse

Information Classification: General

Building Performance and Monitoring	Operational Performance; Post-Occupancy Evaluation; Commissioning; Operations and Maintenance; System Optimization; Performance Monitoring, Benchmarking, and Reporting; Building Performance Standards and Benchmarking Ordinances; Arc; LEED v5 Operations and Performance Verification; USGBC PERFORM; Tenant Engagement; Integrative Process; Standards, Guidelines, and Global Application (e.g., ASHRAE and ISO standards)
Community-Scale Solutions	LEED for Cities and Communities; LEED for Neighborhood Development; EcoDistricts; Equitable Community Development; Urban and Regional Planning; Sustainable Transportation and Mobility Systems; Transit-Oriented Development; Food Security; Campus Planning; Community Revitalization; Placemaking; Green Schools; Community Infrastructure and Utilities; District Energy and Thermal Networks; Urban Heat and Tree Canopy; Community Engagement; Local-Government Leadership
Energy Efficiency, Renewables, and Grid Integration	Decarbonization; Net Zero Energy and Carbon (including LEED Zero Energy and LEED Zero Carbon); Demand Reduction; High-Performance Building Systems; Deep Energy Retrofits; Renewable Energy Systems (Solar, Wind, Hydro); Fuel Cells (Powered by Low-Carbon Fuels); Energy Storage; Demand Response and Flexibility; Intersection of Utility Infrastructure and Buildings; Electrification and Grid Integration; Heat Pumps and All-Electric Buildings; Geothermal and Thermal Energy Networks; Refrigerants; EV Charging; Virtual Power Plants
Green Building Policy	Policy Frameworks; Impacts of Policies and Programs; Environmental and Community Advocacy; Codes, Standards, and Reporting; Building Performance Standards; Stretch and Reach Codes; Embodied Carbon and Buy Clean Policy; Land Use and Zoning Reform; Incentive Programs; Energy Affordability and Weatherization Programs; Community-Based Sustainability Initiatives; Climate and Environmental Justice; Climate Action; International Policy
Innovative Technology	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applications; Generative AI for Design and Decision-Making; AI Energy and Water Footprint and Data Center Sustainability; Smart, Interoperable Building Systems and Controls; Fault Detection and Diagnostics; Smart-Building Cybersecurity and Data Privacy; Digital Twins and Intelligent Data Platforms; Reality Capture Technologies (LiDAR, Drones, Scanning); Grid-Interactive and Intelligent Building Technologies; Smart Microgrids; Robotics, Automation, and Advanced Construction Technologies; Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality and Immersive Design; Building Science (Envelope, Hygrothermal Performance); Digital Product Passports and EPD Data; BIM and Whole-Life Carbon Tools

~~Information Classification: General~~

Finance and Business Models	Green Finance Models; Innovative Business Models; Sustainable and ESG Investment; Green Bonds and Climate Bonds; Blended and Public–Private Finance; C-PACE and Green Banks; Sustainability-Linked Loans; Role of Banks and Lenders; Impact Investing; Corporate Sustainability and Disclosure; Equitable Development Finance; Green Valuation and Appraisal; Green Leases and Split Incentives; On-Bill and Utility Financing; Incentives, Tax Credits, and Public Funding; Climate Risk and Financial Disclosure; Insurance and Risk Management; Capital Stacks and Deal Structuring; Total Cost of Ownership and the Business Case
Material Innovation and Circular Economy	Life Cycle Assessment; Embodied Carbon; Low-Carbon Concrete and Steel; Mass Timber and Biogenic Carbon; Resource Recovery; Product Declarations and Product Certifications; TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency); Reuse; Construction and Demolition Waste; PFAS and Chemicals of Concern; Materials Supply Chain; Procurement and Supply-Chain Transparency; Online Tools and Product Databases (e.g., EC3)
Nature-Based Solutions	Landscape Design and Ecological Systems; Ecological Conservation and Restoration; Biodiversity; Habitat and Land Use; SITES; Living Building Challenge; LEED Zero Water; Regenerative and Biophilic Design; Water Systems and Hydrology (Water Footprinting, Efficiency, Neutrality); Onsite Water Reuse; Stormwater Management; Green

Quality of Life and Health	Indoor Environmental Quality; Health and Well-Being; Human Behavior; Environmental Psychology; Ergonomics; Evidence-Based Design; Active Design; Daylighting and Views; Lighting and Circadian Health; Ventilation and Filtration; Thermal Comfort; Acoustics; Green Cleaning and Operations; Accessibility; Universal Design; Water Quality; Healthy Materials; Occupant Experience; Environmental Testing and Monitoring; Wildfire Smoke and Extreme Heat; Mental Health and Neuroinclusion; WELL and Fitwel; Equity and Social Impact (including the LEED v5 Human Impact Assessment); Inclusive Design
Residential	Multifamily Affordable Housing Design and Construction; Affordable Housing Preservation; Missing-Middle Housing; Modular and Prefab Construction; Production and Custom Home Building; High-Performance Residential Standards (LEED for Homes, ENERGY STAR, PHI or PHIUS Passive House, DOE Zero Energy Ready Homes, Net Zero); Existing-Home Retrofits and Electrification; Innovative Residential Systems (Water, Energy, Waste, Indoor Air Quality); Healthy Homes; Community Solar; Residential Planning
Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Climate Change Adaptation	Hazard, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment; Climate Risk Modeling; Risk Mitigation Planning and Design; Resilience Measurement and Valuation; Climate Adaptation and Adaptive Pathways; Resilience Finance and Insurance Innovations; Multi-Hazard Risk Reduction; Intersections of Decarbonization and Resilience (Synergies, Conflicts); “Beyond-Code” Building Standards; Performance-Based Design; Resilience Retrofits; Extreme Heat and Passive Survivability; Wildfire- and Flood-Specific Design; Power Resilience and Microgrids; Water Security; RELi; Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery; Community Resilience and Adaptation Planning; Resilience Hubs; Managed Retreat

~~Information Classification: General~~

Workforce Development and Leadership	Training Programs; Credentials (e.g., LEED Credentials, Trades Certifications); Mentorship; Green Jobs; Pathway Programs; Skilled-Trades and Apprenticeship Pathways; Retrofit and Electrification Workforce; Operations and Maintenance Staff Training; Early-Career and Student Engagement; Contractor and Small-Business Capacity; Community Partnerships; Leadership Development; Sucession Planning; Change Management; AI's Impact on the Workforce

Learning Levels

Greenbuild education sessions will be associated with one of the following learning levels. Submitters should review the Learning Level chart below and select the most appropriate level for their proposal. This will help attendees understand the depth of the material and expected outcomes of the session. Greenbuild learning levels are based on Blooms Taxonomy.

Learning Level	Definition	Learning objectives and quiz question cues might include…
Basic	Course presents introductory concepts and general understanding of the topic; learners have minimal to no prerequisite knowledge and limited previous experience with course material.	define; describe; examine; identify; label; list; match; name; read; recall; recognize; record; reproduce; select; state; tell; view; write.
Intermediate	Course presents detailed, in-depth materials and instruction; learners have some prerequisite knowledge and the course provides the ability to apply information to practice.	analyze; assess; associate; classify; cite; contrast; compare; describe; differentiate; discuss; distinguish; estimate; explain; generalize; give examples; interpret; paraphrase; restate; select; summarize
Advanced	Course presents sufficient material and opportunities to gain new knowledge, practice application, apply information, and complete a definitive action; learners have pre-existing knowledge and experience applying this information to practice.	apply; articulate; assess; calculate; change; chart; classify; compute; construct; control; create; demonstrate; design; determine; develop; establish; illustrate; implement; instruct; interview; operationalize; participate; prepare; produce; project; provide; report; select; show; solve; teach; transfer; use; utilize.

~~Information Classification: General~~

Expert	Course presents detailed training on specific topics with opportunities to be fully engaged with materials and activities, and to demonstrate a mastery of content through course work; learners have extensive prior knowledge or experience with the topic.	analyze; appraise; assess; break down; calculate; categorize; classify; compare; conclude; connect; construct; contrast; correlate; decide; design; develop; diagram; differentiate; discriminate; distinguish; evaluate; explain; focus; judge; justify; illustrate; infer; integrate; limit; measure; modify; outline; plan; point out; predict; prioritize; produce; rank; rate; rearrange; research; rewrite; select; separate; subdivide; substitute; validate

Interested in submitting a Rating System-specific course?

A rating system-specific course looks like a general course, as it is a collection of data, facts and examples organized around four learning objectives. Rating system-specific sessions should primarily focus on teaching attendees the various rating systems but also provide on-the-ground examples, fresh perspectives and analysis, and/or tackle new approaches to credit/feature achievement. Interested submitters should review the Guidance on creating Rating System-Specific Learning Objectives for additional details.

Scoring System

All session proposals will be reviewed and scored during the first round by a team of volunteer reviewers using a 30-point scale. Those with the top scores will move on to a second round of review completed by experts in the related topic category. These rankings will be used by the Greenbuild Program Team to select presenters and sessions for the final program. Reviewers will rate proposals using the following scoring system:

Max Value	Criteria
5 points	This session proposal clearly aligns to the current market conditions and reflects a project or topics that will drive meaningful impact in the industry
5 points	The speakers have demonstrated knowledge and the ability to present material in an effective and meaningful way.
5 points	The learning objectives are clear, relevant to the topic presented and challenging to the Greenbuild audience.
5 points	The proposed session provides attendees with relevant, timely, and applicable content.
5 points	This session offers innovative or inspirational content to green building professionals.
5 points	I would recommend this session to an attendee interested in the subject matter.
Max value: 30 Points	

~~Information Classification: General~~

Proposal Timeline

Wednesday, November 18*	Call for Proposals opens
Friday, January 29*	All proposals must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST
Wednesday, May 5*	Accepted session notifications are sent
Monday, May 24*	Presenter acceptance deadline
October 19-22	Conference Dates: Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, Chicago, IL

***Exactly dates subject to change**

Greenbuild Program Policies

The review process for education session proposals is managed by the Greenbuild staff. Greenbuild's responsibility is to produce the strongest possible educational program for conference attendees by including new, important content and learning experiences. All sessions and speakers will be submitted to the program based upon the below guidelines:

Session and Presenter Regulations

- An individual may only participate in one education session at Greenbuild unless the Greenbuild staff approves a rare exception.
- A firm/institution/organization may participate as a moderator/presenter in no more than two sessions at Greenbuild with a maximum of three total presenters from that firm/institution/organization unless the Greenbuild staff approves a rare exception. Presenters are encouraged to represent their topic from a diverse perspective – from different companies and/or project roles.
- Presenters may not distribute any printed collateral at the conference. To produce a paperless conference, presenters agree to provide all presentation slides, papers, and handouts electronically.
- Greenbuild conference presenters are awarded a discount off conference registration price in appreciation of their contribution to the success of the Greenbuild conference.
- No sessions that are based upon an advertisement, product, or service will be accepted into the program.
- All presenters agree to have their session video and/or audio recorded at the discretion of the Greenbuild Conference.
- All presenters agree that Greenbuild/Informa has the right to repurpose content presented at the event for additional offerings at their sole discretion.
- Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Applicant Responsibilities

- Session submitters may not propose speakers without the knowledge and permission of the proposed speakers.

~~Information Classification: General~~

- All proposed speakers must be able and willing to present at the conference at the time and date assigned.
- Proposals that are submitted without the knowledge of proposed speakers are subject to immediate rejection and or cancellation if selected.
- Accepted presenters who are not able to attend must notify conference staff immediately. Replacement presenters must be suggested and approved by Greenbuild. Greenbuild reserves the right to modify or cancel any session based on a change in presenter.
- If a presenter's employment changes, conference staff must be notified. Greenbuild reserves the right to retain or remove presenters based on the best interest of the program. Previous employer must sign letter indicating willingness to let presenter speak (letter could include that presenter will acknowledge who employer was at the time of work).
- All accepted speakers must register for Greenbuild by the communicated deadline or the entire session may be cancelled without notice to the submitter and a new session will be selected from the waitlist, at the discretion of Greenbuild.
- All presentations must be uploaded to the Speaker Resource Center in accordance with communicated deadlines. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the session.

Greenbuild Program Process

- Greenbuild reserves the right to develop submitted sessions using a combination of proposals and/or invited presenters.
- The Greenbuild Speaker discounts may not be combined or transferred.
- Greenbuild may modify any submitted session by adding or removing speakers, requesting content changes or additions, or recommending a change in session length.

Final decisions regarding these policies may be made at the discretion of the Greenbuild Program Staff.

~~Information Classification: General~~