

## State News for NSPE Members

### DC's Building Energy Performance Standards Take Effect

It's go time for energy efficiency in larger buildings in the nation's capital. Washington, DC's new Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) have gone into effect, requiring all buildings 50,000 square feet and larger to meet minimum energy performance targets with benchmarking submitted as of April 1, [Commercial Observer reports](#).

Starting in 2026, the BEPS will also apply to buildings of at least 25,000 square feet, and by 2032 the standards will apply to buildings as small as 10,000 square feet.

Cushman & Wakefield's 2023 DC BEPS Compliance Guide was produced to help property management teams and owners in DC stay ahead of local ordinances. By meeting compliance standards, the report noted, building owners can not only avoid penalties but also improve their buildings' efficiency, reduce their carbon footprint, and potentially attract more tenants who are interested in environmentally responsible buildings. There are three compliance pathways DC building owners can choose from based on their specific needs, C&W said. [Read more](#).

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### DC's 14th Street Bridge in Line For \$72 Million Makeover

Vice President Kamala Harris appeared at DC's 14th Street Bridge on Thursday, April 13, to announce a \$72 million grant to overhaul one of its aging spans over the Potomac River, [The Washington Post reports](#).

The 73-year-old northbound bridge carrying Interstate 395 from Arlington handles more than 88,000 vehicles a day, despite its poor condition, according to federal and local officials. The District Department of Transportation said the project is needed to address "urgent safety and state of good repair concerns." The agency said some of the bridge's components are in poor condition, while others are in fair condition but at risk of having their status fall to "poor" within the next three years.

Officials said one key upgrade will be replacing a deteriorating section that was once movable with a new fixed span. Elsewhere, cracks will be addressed, concrete and steel repaired, bearings replaced, and piers modified.

Structurally deficient steel barriers meant to prevent errant vehicles from falling into the river below will be replaced with new crash-tested barriers. The city has erected temporary concrete barriers in the shoulders for safety, but that makeshift fix can lead to other problems, such as a blockage of traffic lanes. [Read more.](#)

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## Howard University Receives \$1 Million from Autodesk to Advance Mechanical Engineering Department Initiatives

[Howard University has announced](#) that Autodesk Inc. has donated \$1 million to the school's Department of Mechanical Engineering, the largest-ever unrestricted gift to the department.

The gift for the Department of Mechanical Engineering expands its manufacturing and making facilities and laboratory facilities for students enrolled in the College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA). This trust-based gift results from a five-year industry partnership of campus and student and faculty engagements with trust that the Department of Mechanical Engineering has knowledge of how best to invest the contribution to serve its mission.

"Howard University is grateful to receive this donation from Autodesk in support of our Department of Mechanical Engineering. Our College of Engineering and Architecture has produced world-class engineers for more than 115 years, and this gift will allow us to strengthen and expand support for our talented students," said Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA, president of Howard University. Autodesk has collaborated with the Department of Mechanical Engineering for five years, and its association with the university has benefited students across the CEA's five departments. [Read more.](#)

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).*

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## Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

*By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023*

Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we



want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

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## New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



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## QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector

(includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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