

State News for NSPE Members

US Green Building Council's Headquarters Earns Triple Platinum Certification

The US Green Building Council (USGBC) announced that its headquarters in Washington, DC, has been awarded a prestigious triple Platinum certification in LEED, TRUE, and WELL. This trio of certifications reflects USGBC's commitment to healthy, productive, sustainable, and responsible work environments.

The new headquarters, which also houses Green Business Certification, Inc. (GBCI), reflects the changing office landscape, with a clear emphasis on decarbonization, indoor environmental quality and resource efficiency.

"Our triple Platinum space models the mission and values of USGBC and GBCI," said Peter Templeton, president and CEO, USGBC and GBCI. The USGBC headquarters, located within a LEED Gold existing building, prioritized reuse, from furniture to equipment to supplies, contributing to an outstanding 44% reduction in embodied carbon emissions—below the Carbon Leadership Forum baseline for an interior buildout. Workspaces were reconfigured, and the project reused all kitchen materials, mailing supplies, flooring from the lobby, window shades and much more.

"Keeping materials out of landfills was a top priority that was achieved through careful planning, targeted demolition and innovative reuse," said Melanie Mayo-Rodgers, director, facilities, USGBC. "We succeeded in reducing not only waste, but also our project costs and environmental footprint." [Read more.](#)

Metro's New Electric Buses Hit the Streets

Metro's first two 60-ft. electric buses began carrying passengers on November 13 — a milestone in the transit agency's plans to fully electrify its fleet and phase out fossil-fuel-powered buses, the [DCist reports](#).

The new buses look nearly identical to Metro's articulated double buses that

already operate on some of the busiest lines, but the discerning rider will notice the standard grey and red paint job includes a new green stripe and electric plug graphic. The new buses made their debut on the W4 line, which runs between Anacostia Metro Station in Southeast and the Deanwood Metro Station in Northeast.

The electric buses have zero tailpipe emissions, meaning cleaner air and less climate pollution. They also offer a more pleasant, quieter ride, compared to a bus with an internal combustion engine.

The new buses also have some nifty modern features that Metro has been gradually adding to its fleet, including USB charging ports, digital information screens, and new fareboxes. The fareboxes are more reliable, according to Metro, process payments more quickly, and allow riders to add value to their SmarTrip cards, or check their balance.

Riders can check the status of the electric buses on the W4 route using Metro's live tracker. When the buses are active, they are shown under the "special edition" tab on the site. [Read more.](#)

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

Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE*

Future Forward

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology are revolutionizing the world. But these technologies are developing at a pace much faster than can be effectively absorbed into critical engineered infrastructure. The NSPE Emerging Technologies Committee is laser focused on ensuring that new technologies can benefit society and the profession with minimal risk to safety and security.

Claiming a Seat at the Table

Does it ever seem like your ideas go unnoticed? Do you sometimes feel like you have stalled in your organization? Does it seem like your team is not getting the support it needs? If you want to "claim a seat at the table," how you show up, use your influence, and communicate can be the difference between winning opportunities or not.

[Access the full issue online.](#) Members who subscribe to the digital edition of *PE* can also access the current and back issues.



Engineers Week 2024 — Welcome to the Future!

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 18–24, 2024) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week — **Welcome to the Future!** — seeks to inspire the next generation to play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access promotional resources.](#)

Share Your Views: Outreach to the Next Generation

What are you doing to promote the engineering profession to young people? Send your comments (250 words or less) to pemagazine@nspe.org.

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