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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Buildings Institute celebrates 10 years; expands Board of Directors**

New Buildings Institute (NBI) is marking its tenth year working to improve the energy performance of commercial buildings. A nonprofit organization, NBI is focused on advancing the technologies, design practices and public policies that will reduce the amount of energy used by commercial buildings. The building sector accounts for approximately 70% of electricity usage in the United States and is responsible for nearly half of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

**Board adds four new directors**

As attention on green, high performance building has grown, so has NBI. Four new directors - two new positions and two replacing outgoing Board members - were seated in early August:

- Marge Anderson, Associate Director, Energy Center of Wisconsin
- Martha Brook, Senior Mechanical Engineer, PIER Buildings Program, California Energy Commission
- Mark Eggers, Program Manager, New York State Energy Research & Development Authority
- Brendan Owens, Director of LEED Technical Development, U.S. Green Building Council

“These new directors, along with the Board members who have been with NBI for nearly all of these last 10 years, make up a *Who’s Who* of leadership in the energy efficiency and commercial building fields,” said NBI Executive Director Dave Hewitt.

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a nonprofit corporation making buildings better for people and the environment

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## **NBI then and now**

NBI was established in December 1997 as a response to concerns that energy efficiency was not being integrated quickly and aggressively enough into commercial building standards. A group of efficiency advocates and electric utilities pulled together and sponsored an “institute” that could act as a policy and research think tank for high performance design and construction practices in commercial buildings.

“Initially, the organization’s charge was focused mainly on improving energy codes and standards,” explained Hewitt. “But as the years passed, the expertise of NBI’s building scientists and project managers was called upon to review up-and-coming technologies, provide guidance on design practices and consult on policies that would result in low-energy buildings,” he said.

Today, NBI-developed design guidelines offer architects, engineers and other building professionals resources to improve the efficiency of commercial buildings. The organization also provides technical expertise and policy advice to address those issues impeding wider adoption of high performance building practices.

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*New Buildings Institute (NBI) is a nonprofit organization working to improve the energy performance of commercial buildings. NBI sponsors include: California Energy Commission, Efficiency Vermont, Iowa Energy Center, National Grid, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, NSTAR, NYSEERDA, Pacific Gas & Electric, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Southern California Edison and The Energy Foundation. For more information about New Buildings Institute and our work, visit [www.newbuildings.org](http://www.newbuildings.org).*