



WEST MICHIGAN

**For Immediate Release**

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**First Annual USGBC West Michigan Battle of the Buildings**

*Grand Rapids, MI – January 10, 2014* – It's time for an energy reduction war, a crusade against kilowatts, a barrage against btu's ... a West Michigan **Battle of the Buildings!** The U.S. Green Building Council West Michigan (USGBC-WM) Chapter announces that the first annual West Michigan Battle of the Buildings is officially open for contestants!

Made possible by strong community partners like Consumers Energy and Hurst Mechanical, the West Michigan USGBC Battle of the Buildings Program is an awards and recognition program for energy use reduction open to all USGBC West Michigan Chapter area commercial buildings. The program is a way to encourage energy-efficient practices in buildings across the region and to instill a spirit of friendly competition among the area's building owners and operators. Over 1,000,000 square feet of building space is already committed!

On March 31, 2014 building registration will close and categories will be determined based on type and number of building entries. Throughout the year participants will measure, track, and report their monthly energy consumption using Portfolio Manager, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) online energy tracking tool. A training workshop for this tool is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2014 from 11:00am – 1:00pm at Hurst Mechanical (5800 Safety Drive, Belmont, MI). Registration for this workshop is free to participants, \$10 for USGBC West Michigan Chapter members, and \$20 for all others. Registration can be found online at [www.usgbcwm.org/education](http://www.usgbcwm.org/education).

Throughout the competition participants will cut energy waste through energy-saving activities such as making improvements to the building, optimizing operations and maintenance, and engaging occupants to save. The buildings that demonstrate the greatest percentage-based reduction in EUI (energy use intensity) during the competition will be recognized as a winner at a 2015 energy summit. This summit will consist of a panel discussion of participants, vendor booths, and an awards banquet.

The West Michigan Battle of the Buildings was recently endorsed by the EPA in this statement: “The Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program has found that a spirit of healthy competition and the opportunity for recognition are among the best drivers for participation in organization- and community-wide energy management. Competitions are a great way to inspire and motivate businesses to save money while reducing carbon pollution that contributes to climate change. ENERGY STAR applauds USGBC-West Michigan for their leadership in promoting commercial building energy efficiency, and we can’t wait to see what buildings come out on top!”

For information on how to enter, building registration, or to become a Battle partner visit [www.usgbcwm.org/battle](http://www.usgbcwm.org/battle).

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*The U.S. Green Building Council is a coalition of leaders from across the building industry working to promote environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. The West Michigan Chapter provides and develops leadership through affiliations and education at all levels. Where we live, learn & labor matters.*

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