

The Green Buildings Act

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

July 18, 2023

Green Buildings Act - History and Purpose

- ▶ First enacted in 2009
- ▶ Amended in 2022
- ▶ Legislation: <http://webserver.rilegislature.gov//Statutes/TITLE37/37-24/INDEX.htm>
- ▶ Legislative findings:
 - ▶ Energy costs for public buildings and public projects are likely to increase
 - ▶ Energy use by public buildings contributes pollution and global warming emissions
 - ▶ Public buildings can be built using high-performance methods that save energy and water
 - ▶ The GBA is a strategic tool to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and other objectives of the 2021 Act on Climate
 - ▶ The GBA will help ensure that public funds are spent efficiently

Green Buildings Act Standards

- ▶ All public major facility projects of the state, public agencies, municipalities and political subdivisions shall be designed and constructed to at least the LEED, LEED for Neighborhood Development, and SITES, as provided herein, certified or an equivalent high performance green building standard
- ▶ Public school facilities that receive any funding from the state shall meet the standards above, or the Northeast Collaborative for High-Performance Schools
- ▶ Applies to building construction and renovation projects larger than 10,000 square feet
- ▶ Standards now apply to public facility projects that haven't entered the design phase prior to July 1, 2023

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

- ▶ Green Buildings Advisory Committee will be composed of 19 members
 - ▶ 11 from the public
 - ▶ 8 from public agencies
- ▶ Fields represented by the public seats (9 specified):
 - ▶ Architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, energy, labor (through AFL-CIO), general construction contracting, building product and materials industries, urban municipality, non-urban municipality
- ▶ Public Agencies represented:
 - ▶ Administration, Environmental Management, Education, Transportation, Labor and Training, Building Code Commissioner, Infrastructure Bank, and the League of Cities and Towns
- ▶ The Chair shall be a public member chosen by the GBAC

Green Buildings Advisory Committee Responsibilities

- ▶ Make recommendations and help the Department of Administration and the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) implement the GBA
- ▶ Identify the needs, actions, and funding required to implement the requirements in this chapter
- ▶ Establish clear, measurable targets for implementing the standards including timeline, workforce needs, and anticipated costs
- ▶ Monitor and document operating savings and GHG emission reductions that result from major public facility projects as well as policy recommendations and report this annually to the General Assembly and the EC4

Additional Information

- ▶ All RFPs/requests for professional services related to public agency construction shall notice the Green Buildings Act
- ▶ The GBAC is not responsible for developing those RFPs/requests or for selecting the vendors
- ▶ GBAC public members are not prohibited from responding to any public construction RFPs, etc.

Next Steps

- ▶ Nominate a Chair
- ▶ Identify meeting schedule
- ▶ Update the Green Buildings Act Rules and Regulations
 - ▶ Include guidelines for when a project qualifies for an exception from the aforementioned green building standards and the alternative green building standards that could be imposed
- ▶ Develop plans for monitoring, documenting, and reporting on green buildings