



Green
Building
Alliance

Smart solutions for
the built environment



GREEN BUILDING ALLIANCE

2026-2027 Course Catalog

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ABOUT GREEN BUILDING ALLIANCE

Green Building Alliance (GBA) works across sectors and with communities to create beautiful, efficient, high-performing spaces that are as healthy for people as they are for the environment, and that contribute to a thriving economy.

Founded in 1993, GBA was the first nonprofit organization in the United States to focus exclusively on sustainability in the commercial building sector. Today, GBA is a leading authority on high-performance building design, construction, and operations. Our vision is to transform how we plan, build, renovate, and operate our buildings and our communities; advance the design and manufacturing of sustainable products and materials; and establish plans and policies that set new standards for the future.

Our programs include **technical assistance** to projects, project teams, and **entire communities** planning new building projects as well as upgrades and renovations; **workforce credentialing and upskilling training** to advance sustainable building best practices; support and guidance in pursuing **innovative project financing**; and **support to manufacturers** looking to improve operational, energy, and water efficiency; reduce waste; and make their products more sustainable. We also help drive the market for sustainable products and materials by connecting manufacturers with decision makers on the demand side, from designers to procurement, and through product showcase opportunities.

GBA has proven success in bringing together regional leaders around market-driven solutions. **We manage the largest 2030 District in North America** (the Pittsburgh 2030 District), and in 2019, GBA established Pittsburgh as the 2nd UN International Center of Excellence on High Performance Buildings in the world. GBA works throughout Pennsylvania, and across the region, country, and world through strategic alliances including the 2030 Districts Network, United Nations, International Living Future Institute, US and World Green Building Councils, and the High Performance Building Alliance (Ireland). More information at www.gba.org.



TRAINED BY GBA

By working with employers, unions, and individuals seeking professional development, GBA has helped employees from the following organizations and more obtain their green building credential.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Through our Workforce Pathways Initiative, GBA engages with residents in counties across Western PA, including Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland counties, to provide workers and students with training, credentials, and knowledge to pursue well-paying jobs in the rapidly growing green building design, operations, services, and construction sector.

In partnership with regional trade unions, workforce development boards, private employers, PA CareerLink Agencies, high schools, technical institutes and community and technical colleges, GBA conducts green building trades seminars, facilitates career exploration, presents industry-recognized upskilling programs, and helps participants develop in-demand skills that position them to thrive in the green building and clean energy workforce.

GBA also coordinates and hosts youth workforce training seminars and high school educational conferences to increase environmental literacy and exposure to green building, sustainability, and clean energy careers. Seminar and conference curriculum provides foundational green skills workforce training, fosters interest in the green construction industry, and prepares youth for a sustainable future.

Our programs provide certification training and upskilling to enhance skills in high performance design and construction, and energy-efficient building operations, connect trained individuals with employers in the green building and clean energy industries, and support career progression by providing workers and students with transferable and stackable skills and credentials.

To address workforce challenges and barriers in our region, GBA is proud to partner with regional and local organizations to conduct outreach and engagement with marginalized communities.

The following catalog contains the classes and trainings facilitated by GBA staff. While some courses are offered publicly a few times a year, private trainings are available upon request. Private sessions may be hosted virtually or in-person. In addition to discounted prices for GBA Members, K-12 students are taught at no charge, and scholarships are available for all trainings offered.

GREEN BUILDING CAREER PATHWAYS

HS Diploma or GED

College

Doctorate
Degree

Master's
Degree

Bachelor's
Degree

Associate's
Degree

Additional Education,

AIA

LEED GA,
AP or
Fellow

Other GB
Credential

Architecture, Engineering & Design

Building Scientist | Mechanical Engineer | Registered Architect | Architectural Engineer | Lighting Designer | Sustainability Specialist | Building Performance Diagnostician | Draftsperson | Interior Designer

Building Operations, Management & Maintenance

Energy Operations Manager | Facilities Manager | Building Operator | Maintenance Technician | Building Automation System Technician | Building Inspector



GREEN BUILDING 101

Total Hours: 1

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: NA

Certified By: NA

Maintenance Required: NA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Green Building 101 is a beginner level course providing foundational knowledge for understanding the green building industry and the built environment's impact on climate, the economy, and human health. This course provides an overview of key concepts such as green building best practices, trusted rating systems and certifications, healthy materials, and more.

This course can be customized to suit any age group or skill level.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This course is typically delivered in one 1-hour session.

10 minutes	Impact of the built environment
10 minutes	What is a green building?
10 minutes	How green buildings impact you & your health
5 minutes	Green building rating systems
10 minutes	Intro to LEED
10 minutes	Green products, materials & waste diversion
5 minutes	Local green building examples
5 minutes	Roles in a green building (building users, jobs, and more)
5 minutes	Next steps

GBA MEMBERS:

\$30 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

\$50 per person

Offered virtually 2x per year, with options for local and private presentations.

Free for K-12 students and can be customized to grade-level.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY 101

Total Hours: 1

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: NA

Certified By: NA

Maintenance Required: NA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Energy Efficiency 101 details simple strategies for understanding, managing, and reducing energy and water use within buildings. This course covers energy and cost-saving strategies for the building envelope (walls, roofing, windows); heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) systems; office equipment and plug loads; and lighting. Content from this course is applicable for all building use types, including commercial, small business, multifamily residential, hospitals, nonprofit, K-12 schools, higher education, and manufacturing.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This course is typically delivered in one 1-hour session.

10 minutes	Introductions & how energy is used in buildings
10 minutes	Building envelope
20 minutes	Equipment, plug loads & lighting
10 minutes	Water efficiency
10 minutes	Q&A and closing

GBA MEMBERS:

\$30 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

\$50 per person

Offered virtually 2x per year, with options for local and private presentations.

GETTING STARTED WITH GREEN BUILDING

Total Hours: 3

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: NA

Certified By: Urban Green Council

Maintenance Required: NA

COURSE OVERVIEW

Getting Started with Green Building helps participants explore and understand the high-performance building industry, its goals, and many opportunities. In this course, discover an array of career paths in construction, building design, and operations & maintenance. Those entering the workforce or interested in exploring careers in the green building industry can expect to leave this class with a deeper understanding of key systems that contribute to high-performing buildings, as well as the wide variety of critical jobs and skills needed to design and operate efficient buildings.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This course can be delivered in one 3-hour session, or multiple 1-hour sessions.

20 minutes	The what and why of green building
20 minutes	The whole building approach
20 minutes	The green building workforce
20 minutes	Industry innovations driving job growth
20 minutes	Careers in real estate
20 minutes	Careers in design
20 minutes	Careers in construction & construction management
20 minutes	Careers in building operations
20 minutes	Careers in the broader green building ecosystem

GBA MEMBERS:

\$100 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

\$150 per person

Offered virtually 2x per year, with options for private presentations

LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE

Total Hours: 8

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: Yes

Certified By: USGBC/GBCI

Maintenance Required: Yes, annual continued education required.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Associate (GA) credential denotes a basic understanding of green building design and construction and serves as the first step for professionals pursuing a more advanced LEED Accredited Professional (AP) specialization. This course teaches the core concepts of the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED certification program and helps participants effectively navigate both requirements and practical context relating to the LEED Building Design and Construction (BD+C) rating system. Through this course, participants will build a strong foundation towards successfully passing the LEED v4 Green Associate exam.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This course can be delivered in one 8-hour day, two half-days, or four 2-hour sessions.

1 Hours	Introductions, housekeeping & material review
2 Hours	Integrative process, location & transport, sustainable sites
2 Hours	Water efficiency, energy & atmosphere, materials & resources
2 Hours	Indoor environmental quality, innovation & regional priority
1 Hour	Closing questions & reflections

GBA MEMBERS:

\$450 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

\$600 per person

Offered publicly 2x per year, private classes upon request with a minimum of 10 people

GPRO OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Total Hours: 8

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: Yes

Certified By: Urban Green Council

Maintenance Required: NA

COURSE OVERVIEW

GPRO Operations & Maintenance (O+M) training equips facility and custodial teams with practical, actionable, and affordable strategies for improving energy efficiency, reducing water use, and improving indoor air quality. This course will help facility teams identify ways to reduce energy and water demand and cut utility costs as well as strategies to create healthier indoor air quality by addressing cleaning products, chemical use, pest management, ventilation and air filtration, and more. This course focuses on preventative maintenance, offers best practices developed by green building facility experts, and provide opportunities to share lessons learned and questions with peers.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This course can be delivered in one 8-hour day, two half-days, or four 2-hour sessions.

1 Hour	Performance metrics
1 Hour	Building envelope
1 Hour	Water use
1 Hour	Heating, cooling, and hot water
1 Hour	Indoor air quality
1 Hour	Lighting
1 Hour	Resiliency
1 Hour	Commissioning existing buildings

GBA MEMBERS:

\$300 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

\$350 per person

Offered publicly 2x per year, private classes upon request with a minimum of 10 people



PASSIVE HOUSE TRADESPERSON TRAINING

Total Hours: 40

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: No

Exam / Credential Included: Yes

Certified By: Passive House Institute

Maintenance Required: Yes,
annual continued education

COURSE OVERVIEW

Passive House (PH) is the world's most rigorous building energy standard, and principles of PH design can be applied to support Net Zero Ready Building policies and climate-ready design guidelines. This training combines lectures and hands-on learning to prepare contractors, developers, project managers, and tradespeople to build to the PH standard and become officially certified as a PH Tradesperson. PH design optimizes light, air, and thermal energy, reducing a building's energy use. PH principles prove especially lucrative in the commercial building sector, but thorough training is required to achieve this standard. PH can also be used to achieve other high-value green building standards (i.e. LEED, Living Building Challenge). GBA is a local host for this training provided by Emu Passive.®

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This course includes two lecture days, two workshop days, and one exam day.

Day 1	Building science basics, insulation, thermal bridging, windows/doors
Day 2	Retrofits, air & moisture, ERVs/HRVs, heat pumps, quality control
Day 3	Passive House Pod Workshop: Air sealing, windows, insulation
Day 4	Passive House Pod Games: Smoke test, infrared, resiliency test
Day 5	Testing

GBA MEMBERS:

\$2490 per person

Private classes available upon request with a minimum of 20 people



BUILDING CAREERS COHORT

Total Hours: 28

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: No

Exam / Credential Included: Yes

Certified By: USGBC or Urban Green

Maintenance Required: Yes,
annual continued education

COURSE OVERVIEW

There is a growing demand for buildings that use sustainable and healthy products, deliver reduced utility and operating costs, can withstand extreme weather and emergency events, and reduce carbon emissions. This in turn is driving demand across industries for a workforce with the training and skill to design, construct, and operate those buildings. This cohort aims to provide career exposure and certification training; upskilling in sustainable design, construction, and energy-efficient building operations; and the opportunity to network and connect with peers and green building industry experts.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This cohort takes place one day per week, over the course of seven weeks.

Week 1	Orientation: Getting Started with Green Building
Week 2	GPRO or LEED GA training (TBD by class Week 1)
Week 3	GPRO or LEED GA training
Week 4	GPRO or LEED GA training
Week 5	GPRO or LEED GA training
Week 6	Study group, office hours & exam week
Week 7	Building tour, professional Q&A Panel, networking happy hour

Ongoing GBA Membership, 1:1 exit interview, 1 add'l credential training (opt.)

Note: Participants are required to attend at least one Green Building Alliance public education event (free of charge) during the seven weeks to supplement their learning.

GBA MEMBERS & NON-PROFITS:

\$450 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

\$600 per person

Offered privately; customizable for high school, CTE and, and trades students. Scholarships available.

CUSTOMIZED LEARNING

OVERVIEW

Green Building Alliance seeks to develop knowledgeable champions for sustainability through professional trainings that build hard and soft skills. We are proud to offer custom curated learning to organizations looking to develop their team's skills, obtain industry trainings and credentials, and align passions and purpose.

We are able to customize any of the currently offered trainings (i.e. LEED GA, GPRO O+M, etc.) in a format that works best for your team and schedule, or design a custom cohort to fit your needs.

SCHEDULE

Private training schedules are customizable and can be delivered in one complete session or across multiple sessions, depending on your team's needs.

GBA MEMBERS:

Starting at \$200 per person

NON-MEMBERS:

Starting at \$250 per person

Private, custom trainings available upon request with a minimum of 10 people



GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACADEMY (GHSA)

The Green & Healthy Schools Academy promotes vibrant, healthy, and high performing schools and environmental education through training, technical assistance, and engagement with educators, administrators, students, and school board members. Our team works across multiple areas to improve classrooms and learning spaces and make our schools more resilient. We provide tailored programs that educate and inspire K-12 students and educators on sustainable practices and environmental education.

From training staff in green building operations, to enabling high school students to achieve their own credentials, GBA can create custom trainings or experiences for any school stakeholder.

GPRO O+M FOR SCHOOLS

Like the traditional GPRO training, this course helps facility teams identify ways to reduce energy and water demand, cut utility costs, and create healthier indoor air quality. While content includes information that facility members of any building type will find useful, this course contains customized information especially relevant to preK-12 school teams and the unique needs and challenges of school/classroom spaces.

Total Hours: 8

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: Yes

Certified By: Urban Green Council

Through a grant from The Grable Foundation, GBA is able to offer GPRO O+M at no cost to schools facilities and custodial teams, administrators, and educators.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT & TOPICAL PRESENTATIONS

GBA assists educators and administrators in meeting their PA Department of Education standards, particularly in Career Education and Science, Technology, Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability (STEELS) standards. This can include technical assistance in curriculum development and train-the-trainer sessions in which we teach teachers how to deliver our content. We can also customize topical lectures and presentations to deliver to faculty, parent groups, and students. Topics include healthy indoor learning environments, green cleaning, sustainability career exposure, energy efficiency for schools, and more.



YOUTH CAREER EXPOSURE

CAREER FAIRS & YOUTH CONFERENCES

GBA works with partners to host or attend career fairs and conferences for youth who are interested in diving deeper into the topic of green buildings and related career opportunities. We share details about green buildings, career pathways, how roles in green building are addressing climate change and improving quality of life in our communities, and provide next steps toward pursuing these jobs.

GREEN BUILDING 101

Appropriate and customizable for all ages, GBA offers this beginner level course features an introduction to green building and green building careers.

BUILDING TOURS, PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

We host student groups on field trips of GBA's own LEED Platinum-certified office space or other regional green buildings, create custom topical presentations, bring hands-on demonstrations and interactive lessons, and can present game-like learning to your students!

LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE (GA)

We help prepare students for green building careers and enable them to leave high school with a stackable professional credential. The LEED GA credential communicates a strong knowledge of green building and sustainable development to potential employers and is a great fit for those pursuing a deeper understanding of green buildings and professional credentials under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Rating System—the world's leading green building standard for healthy, high-performing buildings.



Total Hours: 8

Pre-Requisites: NA

Customizable: Yes

Exam / Credential Included: Yes

Certified By: USGBC/GBCI

Offered at no cost to high school students.

GENERAL EDUCATION & EVENTS

TOPICAL LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

GBA offers informative and educational public programming in a range of topics at the intersection of design, construction, operations, climate, human health, and economy. By exploring projects that demonstrate a more sustainable future, we create ways for regional experts as well as current and future leaders of high-performance building to learn from and inspire one another.

All General Education opportunities are eligible for continued education credits needed for annual credential maintenance through GBCI or AIA.

ACCELERATE TO ZERO (A TO Z) BUILDING TOURS

Led by building project and operations teams, building tours offer attendees the opportunity to explore real world demonstrations of green buildings. Attendees are able to ask everything from A to Z. Topics presented during tours are also integral to green building goals focusing on energy efficiency, water conservation, improving indoor environmental quality, and decarbonization (Accelerating to Zero).

HEALTH IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Health in the Built Environment Series serves as a platform for industry experts to draw connections and spark conversation about the relationship between public health and the built environment. Since the launch of the series in 2019, GBA along with our speakers and audiences, has explored topics including Green Building Wellness Standards, Healthy Building Materials, Biophilic Design, Green Cleaning, and Native & Sustainable Landscapes.

GBA SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to GBA's robust calendar of trainings and public education offerings, special events offer dynamic opportunities for networking, connection, and career growth, all while showcasing the latest in regional industry innovation. Signature events like Emerald Evening— our annual gala known for its unmatched networking — Inspire Speakers Series, Harvest Dinner, Green Building Expo and other special events create powerful moments of inspiration and collaboration that drive both personal and professional advancement.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Interested in training but unable to cover the costs? Scholarships are available!

Reach out to learn more at info@gba.org.

www.gba.org





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