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## TERI and USGBC join forces to promote high performance buildings in India

**New Delhi, July 7:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) today announced a strategic collaboration to accelerate the development of high performance buildings in India and Southeast Asia.

Developing a sustainable approach to the built environment is not only a global issue, but also a major concern for developing countries. TERI's GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) and USGBC's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) have partnered to promote the best of global and Indian practices to ensure efficiency of design, construction and operation of high performance buildings. GRIHA has created locally relevant and technologically advanced mechanisms, which is crucial in regionalizing LEED in India and Southeast Asia.

Speaking at the event, Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director-General, TERI, said: "Several studies have estimated that most of the buildings projected to be standing in 2030 in India have yet to be built. The demand for energy, water and other inputs for these buildings and those that already exist will be staggering. Designing and constructing "green" buildings would ensure that India, and the world, do not get locked into a pattern of resource use intensity that would be unsustainable for a variety of reasons. TERI and USGBC share common goals in promoting green buildings round the world."

"Implementing a more sustainable approach to the built environment is a global imperative, but nowhere is its impact more critical than in developing countries. This partnership between USGBC and TERI promises to take green buildings to the next level in India and across Southeast Asia," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "India is already the third largest market for LEED outside the U.S., and USGBC is committed to bringing our resources to advance more rapid adoption of green building practices."

The partnership will focus on two key initiatives:

1. **Existing buildings:** The GRIHA Council implementing and supporting the LEED for Existing Buildings rating system and the LEED Dynamic Plaque for Indian and Southeast Asian markets.
2. **New buildings:** Offering seamless pathways for dual ratings for new buildings: GRIHA projects will have the opportunity to earn LEED certification and LEED buildings will have the opportunity to earn GRIHA certification.

The partnership comes on the heels of last month's announcement from USGBC regarding its expansion of support for LEED in India.

“GRIHA has pioneered a regional rating system that addresses the environmental impacts of the construction sector in India. It was further modified and adopted by the Ministry as a benchmark for sustainable buildings within India. We applaud these extraordinary achievements and greatly look forward to advancing this regional system with our global rating system as both parties seek to transform the built environment into one that includes the most sustainable, safest and healthiest buildings for all,” said Scot Horst, Senior Vice President, LEED, USGBC.

USGBC has also established a LEED customer service hub in India that will help accelerate the adoption of LEED in India. The LEED hub is a local technical, market, certification and customer support center for LEED project teams. Additionally, in an effort to continue strengthening the global consistency and review quality of the LEED rating system, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) now manages certification of projects to all LEED rating systems in India. The LEED hub, USGBC’s renewed commitment to India, along with the strategic partnership with TERI, will add significant capacity in the market, encouraging even greater adoption of green standards across more populations in the region.

LEED v4, offered by USGBC and SVA GRIHA, GRIHA LD, which is offered by The GRIHA Council, will continue to co-exist and be promoted by the respective bodies.

### **About TERI**

TERI is a leading Indian non-government organisation (NGO), a global think tank conducting research and analysis in the genres of energy, environment, and sustainable development. TERI conceived GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), the national rating system for green buildings in India. It is a green building design evaluation system and is suitable for all kinds of buildings in different climatic zones of the country. For more information, visit [teriin.org](http://teriin.org), [grihaindia.org](http://grihaindia.org) and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

### **About USGBC**

USGBC is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building [program](#), robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual [Greenbuild International Conference & Expo](#), the [Center for Green Schools](#) and [advocacy](#) in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For [more](#) information, visit [usgbc.org](http://usgbc.org), explore the [Green Building Information Gateway \(GBIG\)](#) and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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