



BOMA Canada's Environmental Certification Continues to Grow

BOMA Go Green, a national environmental certification program launched last year, is riding a wave of enthusiasm across the country as building owners and managers recognize the importance of addressing growing environmental concerns. BOMA Go Green's success is underscored by the surge in applications over the past year. Over 150 commercial properties have now received Go Green Certification, more than doubling the tally of a year ago, and many more applications are in process.

"BOMA Canada is very proud of how quickly and thoroughly the commercial real estate industry has embraced Go Green," says Esther Paterson, President of BOMA Canada. "The program was developed to address the need for a benchmarking standard that applies to all buildings, and in response to an industry-wide desire to be more environmentally sensitive and accountable. The country-wide support is proof that the program is fulfilling an important role."

The BOMA Go Green program addresses ten requirements in five categories of environmental responsibility touching on all aspects of building management and operation, including Resource Consumption, Waste Reduction & Recycling, Building Materials, Interior Environment and Tenant Awareness. As a "best practices" model, Go Green guides owners and managers in reducing buildings' energy consumption and operating costs, as well as heightening environmental stewardship and due diligence. It also leads to improved tenant safety, health, comfort, and productivity.

The Go Green program comprises two elements in which buildings and firms can choose to participate. The comprehensive component was recently renamed Go Green Plus; it is designed to offer added value to building owners and managers through the provision of a detailed, benchmarking and scoring system for environmental standards. The new name, Go Green Plus, is reflective of that added value and was also chosen to align more closely with the French Program, where it is called Visez vert Plus.

With scores of buildings now applying for certification each month, Go Green's significance and relevance is also demonstrated by the fact that more than 10 major national industry players have committed to the program, including Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC).

BOMA Go Green provides a tangible means of recognizing those buildings where environmental best practices have been implemented into the operations, and to foster enhanced environmental consciousness. The groundswell of support for Go Green is tremendously gratifying, and helps prove that BOMA's leadership role in encouraging environmental responsibility in our industry is both appropriate and meaningful.

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Canada is the voice of Canada's commercial real estate industry with over 2,500 members in regional associations across Canada. On behalf of the building owners, managers, developers, facilities managers, asset managers, leasing agents, brokers, and the product and service providers to over 1.9 Billion square feet of commercial real estate in Canada, BOMA Canada addresses issues of national concern, and promotes excellence in the industry through information, education, advocacy, and recognition.

For more information and to apply for certification, contact BOMA Canada or visit the BOMA Go Green website at www.bomagogreen.com.

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