

# Vermont Green Building Network 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Founded in 2002, the non-profit Vermont Green Building Network (VGBN) works with the building industry to achieve its vision of fostering green building in Vermont, contributing to a thriving local economy, a healthy environment, and high quality of life in all communities. VGBN's Executive Director and Board of Directors manage and carry out VGBN's annual Vermont's Greenest Building Awards Competition, education and advocacy work. We have over 70 members listed in our online member directory, and we also maintain a mailing list to which 500 Vermont green building professionals subscribe. Our annual Vermont Green Building Gala and Annual Meeting brings together members and friends to network and share green building practices and ideas.

#### Special update from VGBN's Executive Director

We're grateful to have a robust network of green building professionals and enthusiasts in Vermont, and we're excited to move forward in acting on a new strategic plan. In 2015, VGBN was faced with an important decision - the USGBC restructured its chapters (VGBN has been an official USGBC chapter since 2005), and VGBN was presented with two options:

1.) Continue as an independent organization, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, as VGBN was originally structured. Leadership and programming would remain local, but VGBN would no longer be directly affiliated with USGBC.

2.) Become an "Integrated USGBC Chapter," continuing as an official USGBC Chapter and operating within USGBC's restructured framework of national leadership. VGBN would discontinue its current 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

After careful consideration from Vermont stakeholders, VGBN members, founding members and our board of directors, our board voted to proceed as an independent organization from the USGBC and maintain our 501(c)(3) status.

We have been grateful to the USGBC for its support and partnership since 2005, and wish we could continue as an aligned chapter while maintaining our 501(c)(3) status (though we understand this is not an option given our small chapter size). Many thanks to our members who participated in our fall survey, and for the valuable, thoughtful feedback and suggestions surrounding this important decision.

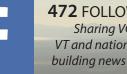
#### **EDUCATION & NETWORKING**



VGBN is committed to educating green building professionals as well as the general public on cutting edge green building practices and promoting their benefits.

In 2015, VGBN hosted the Vermont Green Building Gala in January. The event brought together over 35 green building professionals from Vermont. Winners of the 2014 Vermont's Greenest Building Awards were honored and local Vermont architect and author, Bill Maclay, presented as the event's keynote speaker on his new book "The New Net Zero." Gala attendees enjoyed a networking reception, live music, great food, Ben and Jerry's ice cream and VGBN's annual silent auction fundrasier.

In June, VGBN hosted a Spring Green Building Tour & Networking Reception at the Hilton Garden Inn in Burlington. The event brought together over 30 green building professionals from Vermont.



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### VERMONT'S GREENEST BUILDING AWARDS

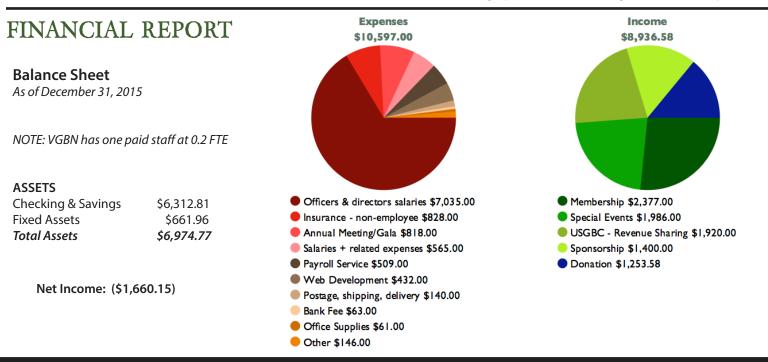


2014 VT's Greenest Building - Residential Norwich VT House |Pill-Maharam Architects

VGBN announced the fourth annual Vermont's Greenest Building Awards in January 2015 to recognize the most energy efficient buildings in Vermont. This statewide competition recognizes exemplary residential and commercial buildings that meet the highest standard of demonstrated energy performance. The 2014 Vermont's Greenest Residential Building was awarded to Norwich VT House (Bandler Residence) designed by Pill-Maharam Architects. This inspiring home won with a proven annual energy intensity of 12,410 BTU/sf/yr. This is about one quarter of what a typical New England residential building consumes (100,000 BTU/sf/yr). The 2014 Net Zero Award winning residence is fossil fuel free – the roof mounted 9kW PV system enables this house to operate as a net energy producer.

Yestermorrow Design/Build School was awarded the 2014 Vermont's Going Green Award in the commercial building category, as well as the 2014 People's Choice Award as voted by Gala attendees. With a proven annual energy intensity of 48,480 BTU/sf/yr, this building's addition of 28 kW in AllSun Trackers and a solar hot water system helps it to produce more than 65% of its energy on-site. The Yestermorrow Design/Build School uses less than half the energy consumed by the average commercial building in New England.

VGBN recognizes the significant achievements of the owners, designers and operators of these buildings in demonstrating their sustainability through proven energy performance. These leaders show that truly energy efficient buildings are achievable, providing the industry with standards to which all high performance buildings should be compared.



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