



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Green Building Initiative Announces  
2017 Board of Directors**

*2017 Chairman of the Board Rich Mitchell to Lead GBI in a Year of Growth, New Developments*

Portland, Ore. – The Green Building Initiative (GBI) is pleased to announce the election of its 2017 Board of Directors. Outgoing GBI Chairman Jay Thomas, chief marketing officer at Mats Inc. of Stoughton, Mass., has passed the gavel to Rich Mitchell, AIA, GGA, LEED AP BD+C, managing partner at Mackenzie, a provider of professional design services headquartered in Portland, Ore.

Thomas served as chairman from 2015 to 2016, overseeing a transition in GBI leadership by hiring GBI Executive Director Vicki Worden and chairing the association during a period of rapid growth, which included updating its [Mission, Principles and Market Approach](#) and finalizing its [2017-2019 Strategic Plan](#).

Rich Mitchell has served on the GBI Board of Directors since 2014 and is the first architect to take on the chairman role for the association since its founding in 2004. Under Mitchell's leadership in 2017, GBI plans to undergo a bylaws revision and announce a new definition of membership, allowing for greater participation, higher-value recognition, and more tangible membership benefits.

"I am deeply honored to take on this role and continue to support and develop GBI's dedication to building sustainable communities," said Mitchell. "GBI's innovative green certification programs align with Mackenzie's own integrated design approach because they are value-added by nature and are relevant to a wide range of project types. Mackenzie's focus and commitment to market-responsive, high-performance design practices is shared by GBI's approach and core principles. These commonalities are the key reasons I have chosen to actively support GBI and promote Green Globes."

"GBI is fortunate to have had excellent volunteer leadership," stated GBI Executive Director Vicki Worden. "We sincerely thank Jay Thomas for his tremendous contributions and look forward to leveraging Rich Mitchell's expertise as he takes the helm as chair of GBI."

In addition to incoming GBI Chairman Rich Mitchell, the board of directors includes new and re-elected members (\* denotes newly elected board members):

Tim Atkinson  
Vice President of Sales  
Stimson Lumber  
Portland, Ore.

Ralph Egües, Jr.  
Executive Director  
National Hispanic Landscape Alliance  
Miami, Fla.

Cristian Barcan  
VP of Sustainability  
The Vinyl Institute  
Washington, D.C.

Bill Freeman  
Consultant  
Resilient Floor Covering Institute  
Rockport, Maine

Arienne Brint  
Vice President, Government and Public Affairs,  
North America  
Solvay  
Houston, Texas

Dawn Garcia  
Sustainability Specialist  
Roseburg Forest Products  
Roseburg, Ore.

Craig Caputo  
VP Polyurethanes Regional Product Mgr.  
Covestro  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gordon Gill  
Partner  
Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture  
Chicago, Ill.

Stephen Del Percio  
VP and Sr. Counsel, Global Alternative Delivery  
AECOM  
Seattle, Wash.

Warren Gorowitz\*  
Vice President of Sustainability  
Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply  
Phoenix, Ariz.

Mary Ann Dickinson  
President and CEO  
Alliance for Water Efficiency  
Chicago, Ill.

Terry Hudgins\*  
Principal  
Hudgins Consulting PC  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Paul L. Doppel  
Senior Director, Industry & Government  
Relations  
Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating  
Suwanee, Ga.

Charles Kibert, Ph.D, PE, GGA  
Holland Professor  
Powell Center for Construction & Environment,  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Fla.

Heather Dylla, Ph.D.  
Director of Sustainable Engineering  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
Lanham, Md.

Sydney Lindquist  
Global Sustainability Leader, Forest Products  
North America  
Hexion  
Columbus, Ohio

Kerry Little  
Business Sustainability Manager  
Arauco North America  
St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada

Amlan Mukherjee, Ph.D.\*  
Associate Professor – Dept. of Civil Engineering  
Michigan Technological University  
Houghton, Mich.

Kathy Loftus  
Global Leader, Sustainable Engineering &  
Energy  
Whole Foods  
Austin, Texas

Lee Smith  
Vice President – Market & Applications Strategy  
Daikin North America, LLC  
Houston, Texas

Donald Martin, GGA\*  
Principal  
Marston Design Studio  
Ball Ground, Ga.

Jay Thomas, Immediate Past Chair  
Chief Marketing Officer  
Mats, Inc.  
Stoughton, Mass.

Ray Tonjes, Founding Chair  
Owner  
Ray Tonjes Builder  
Austin, Texas

“GBI’s mission is to accelerate adoption of green building best practices and we increased the number of buildings we reach by more than 100 percent in 2016,” said Worden. “We are nimble, adaptive, and will continue to work hard to make a bigger impact in 2017 alongside our talented volunteer leaders and board members.”

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**About the Green Building Initiative™** – The GBI is a nonprofit organization and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standards Developer dedicated to accelerating the adoption of green building best practices. Founded in 2004, the organization is the sole U.S. provider of the Green Globes® and federal Guiding Principles Compliance building certification programs. To learn more about opportunities to become involved in the GBI, contact [info@thegbi.org](mailto:info@thegbi.org) or visit the GBI website, [www.thegbi.org](http://www.thegbi.org).