

## **NEW GREEN BUILDING PARTNERSHIP IN BELLINGHAM WILL ENCOURAGE MORE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Dec. 4, 2007 (Seattle, WA) – The [Cascadia Region Green Building Council](#) (Cascadia) has established a new partnership that will enhance its green building initiatives, education programs, and outreach throughout the Northwest. Based in Bellingham, WA, [Sustainable Connections](#)' green building program joins Cascadia as its newest branch, in addition to eight others currently in existence including three in Washington State. Sustainable Connections' green building program promotes healthy, efficient, and environmentally-responsible homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces through education, technical assistance, and advocacy. Both organizations promote and leverage the value of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), among other tools and programs, to improve the performance of new and existing buildings, neighborhoods, and homes.

"Cascadia brings a depth of technical ability, tools, and contacts that will help Bellingham and Whatcom County continue to be a leader among small cities and rural counties in the adoption of green building technologies and practices," says Derek M. Long, Program & Development Director of Sustainable Connections. "We respect, and will benefit from, Cascadia's proven ability to inspire innovation on the national and international level with the Living Building Challenge and Pharos projects."

This partnership will provide quality educational opportunities for industry professionals and the greater public in Whatcom County. Cascadia will now have a greater impact throughout the Northwest, reaching beyond urban cities and into more rural areas. Responsible site selection and green building methods are key components to managing the growth Bellingham is currently experiencing.

There are 14 LEED-registered projects in Whatcom County, including two pilot LEED for Neighborhood Development projects and one LEED for Homes pilot. Both Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham unanimously passed resolutions supporting a LEED Silver minimum for all public buildings.

### About Cascadia Region Green Building Council:

The Cascadia Region Green Building Council (Cascadia) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit and one of three original chapters of the US Green Building Council and a member of the Canada Green Building Council. Cascadia is the originator of the Living Building Challenge, and represents Oregon and Washington States and the Province of British Columbia. Its mission is to effect market change toward sustainable building design and manufacturing processes in the Cascadia bioregion. [www.cascadiagbc.org](http://www.cascadiagbc.org)

### About Sustainable Connections:

Sustainable Connections is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization of 600+ NW Washington business and community leaders working to transform and model an economy built on sustainable practices. We envision business practices that lead to Strong Community, Healthy Environment, Meaningful Employment, and Buying Local First as commonplace in our region and a model for the rest of the world. [www.sustainableconnections.org](http://www.sustainableconnections.org)

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### Contacts:

Jason F. McLennan, Cascadia GBC. (206) 223-2028 / (206) 375-7377 c. [jason@cascadiagbc.org](mailto:jason@cascadiagbc.org)

Derek M. Long, Sustainable Connections. (360) 647-7093 ext. 101 / (360) 303-7776 c.

[Derek@sconnect.org](mailto:Derek@sconnect.org)