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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**TURNER GIVES US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT**

NORFOLK, Va.— Brian A. Turner, PE, Co-Chair of the Hampton Roads Green Building Council, gave an overview of green building progress both in Hampton Roads and across the country on Wednesday, May 9. He focused on current U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) initiatives and how to implement them locally.

The USGBC, American Institute of Architects, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers, and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America are collaborating to produce a baseline standard for the design of high-performance green buildings. This proposed standard will provide minimum requirements for the design of sustainable buildings to balance environmental responsibility, resource efficiency, occupant comfort and well-being and community sensitivity. This new standard will apply to both new commercial buildings and major renovation projects, and has the potential to be adopted into building codes.

“We have seen excellent market traction for the LEED Green Building Rating System nationally and expect this trend to carry over locally.” said Turner. “There are 6 buildings in Hampton Roads that have achieved a level of LEED certification, with at least 10 additional projects indicating an intent to pursue certification.”

Green buildings enhance the economic bottom line through increased marketability, the environmental bottom line through a reduced environmental impact and the people impacts of building green, which can be seen in reduced absenteeism.

Turner, a mechanical engineer at MMM Design Group, is a LEED™ Accredited Professional (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for sustainable design and construction, green engineering, and building projects. He is also a Duke University mechanical and biomedical engineering graduate, and joined MMM in 2001. He has more than six years of experience in mechanical system design—sizing and designing systems from universities, secondary schools, military facilities, jails, industrial facilities, and public housing.

MMM Design Group is a full-service architecture, engineering and planning firm headquartered in Norfolk. The firm’s multi-disciplined team of professional architects, interior designers, planners, landscape architects, civil, structural, electrical and mechanical engineers has experience with projects in the fields of higher education, defense, homeland security, criminal justice, transportation, recreation, environmental protection, and historic restoration.

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