

CONNECTING THE DOTS TO EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN GREEN BUILDINGS

It's time for all parts of the real estate (property) and construction industry to connect and work together through partnerships across the sector, across organisations and countries, if the exponential growth in green buildings that is required over the next ten years is to be achieved, according to Lend Lease Global Head of Sustainability, Maria Atkinson.

Ms Atkinson also said the industry should be demanding a global emissions trading scheme that recognizes energy efficiency buildings as the cheapest and most immediate solution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms Atkinson made the calls at the US Green Building Council's Greenbuild conference and expo, in Chicago, where she was one of six Master Speakers. This year's conference was opened by former US President Bill Clinton, and attracted an estimated 30,000 delegates, making it the world's biggest green building conference.

"We've done the heavy lifting: industry support for green building has grown exponentially in the past ten years, we have the technology and there are pockets of excellence; but now it's time to innovate and replicate best practice consistently not just *within* individual companies, but *between* companies and across countries," said Lend Lease Global Head of Sustainability, Maria Atkinson.

"It's not good enough that waterless urinals are increasingly common in the US but not in Australia; just as dual flush 0.8/1.6 gallon toilets are the norm in Australia, but single flush 3.2 gallon toilets are common in Chicago – at least in the hotels we've all stayed in.

"It's not good enough that a real estate company can ensure rainwater collection and solar panels in one project, but the same company can use single flush toilets and incandescent light globes in another.

"We can get much more done and more immediately if we work together by connecting with others across the sector, within our own organisations and between countries.

"As Joe Romm¹ told the conference, we can go far on existing technology right now – we don't need to wait for break-through technology - all it takes is money, through industry investment as well as government and market-based incentives.

"One of the key market-based incentives that the industry should be calling for is a global carbon emissions trading scheme that recognizes energy efficiency in buildings – which will provide a financial return for investment in energy efficiency and thereby promote such investment.

"Our modelling has shown that high value carbon credits of less than USD\$40 per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) could realistically achieve a *carbon zero* position in buildings at *nil* cost."

¹ Dr Joseph Romm, Center for American Progress & Center for Energy & Climate Solutions



Speaking on the last day of the US Green Building Council's annual Greenbuild conference and expo in Chicago, Ms Atkinson also put out a challenge for next year's Greenbuild, which will be held in Boston.

"The hotels of Boston have 12 months to step up to the challenge of ensuring they are green for Greenbuild 2008 because next year's delegates will be demanding green hotels as part of their commitment to green buildings," Ms Atkinson said.

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About Lend Lease

Lend Lease is a leading international retail and community property group, integrated with strong investment management and construction management businesses.

Lend Lease is proud to be a founding member of the US, Australian and UK Green Building Councils, and is committed to supporting Green Building Council in all its countries of operation, and to having all its tenancies certified.