March 2021

The ULI Center for Sustainability and Economic Performance is dedicated to creating healthy, resilient, and high-performance communities around the world.

Greenprint  Building Healthy Places  Urban Resilience

ULI Spring Meeting

May 10-12, 2021

Don't miss out on ULI's Spring Meeting this year! Engage in candid discussions about the direction of the real estate industry with the people who will shape it. No other organization convenes leaders from every sector of the industry, nor fosters collaboration, to the degree that ULI does at the Spring Meeting. In a year as pivotal as 2021, we all need to be at the table. This is your opportunity to grow your network and re-establish past connections as you debate important changes that will impact the built environment and shape our industry during the post-pandemic recovery.

REGISTER FOR SPRING MEETING HERE

ULI Spring Meeting Sustainability Sessions

Below are session dates of events hosted or supported by ULI's Center for Sustainability and Economic Performance during the 2021 ULI Virtual Spring Meeting. To view a full schedule of sustainability related events at ULI's Spring Meeting, click here.

Concurrent Sessions:

- May 10, 11:45am-12:45pm ET: Equity in Urban Development: Design, Build, and Empower to Promote Social Sustainability
- May 10, 3:15-4:15pm ET: Prioritizing the Public Realm in the "Next Normal": Real Estate Strategies during COVID-19 and Beyond
- May 11, 3:15-4:15pm ET: Staying High and Dry: Public/Private Partnerships Tackling Sea-Level Rise
- May 11, 3:15-4:15pm ET: ULI Center for Sustainability and Economic Performance Happy Hour
- May 12, 11:45am-12:45pm ET: Urban Shift: Future-Forward Inclusive Placemaking and Equitable Community and Economic Development
- May 12, 11:45am-12:45pm ET: The Future of Building Materials: Embodied Carbon and Why it Matters

Forums:

- May 11, 4:15-5:00pm ET & May 12 1:00-3:00pm ET: ULI Coastal Forum
- May 12, 12:00-1:30pm ET & May 14, 12:00-1:30pm ET: Owner/End User Sustainability Forum
- May 12 3:30-5:00pm ET & May 12, 3:30-5:00pm ET: Randall Lewis/ULI Building Healthy Places Forum: What's New & Next: Exploring Our Changing Built Environment

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On-Demand Offerings:

- Unlocking Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Why Real Estate Leaders are Transitioning to All-Electric Buildings
- 5 Technologies Enabling Buildings to Meet Net Zero
- Resilience, Retrofits, and Affordability: Preparing the New York City Housing Authority’s Buildings for Climate Change

CHECK OUT THE FULL SCHEDULE HERE

Upcoming Events

Environmental Justice and Real Estate - Where To From Here?

March 26, 2021
1:00-2:00pm ET

The real estate sector has played a major role in determining which communities experience greater environmental, climate, and health risks – through decisions or support of infrastructure, transportation, renewable energy, building materials, and site location. Join the Responsible Property Investment Council to hear from organizations on the front lines of the environmental justice movement about their work and how real estate actors can continue supporting positive change.

Register & Learn More Here

ULI Learning Course: Net Zero Real Estate: Renovating and Building for Profitability

March 29, March 31, and April 5, 2021
12:00-2:00pm ET

Developed for the general real estate practitioner, this course, comprised of five 2-hour sessions, will teach you the process of renovating existing commercial buildings, as well as greenfield developments, to a Zero Net Energy Bill and Operational Carbon Neutrality. This course will provide you with the resources, methods, and materials needed to apply this methodology to your own projects. You may still register late for the series to access recordings of all 5 live sessions.

Register & Learn More Here

ULI BC: The How-To Guide from Real Estate Developers on Reducing Embodied Carbon in Buildings

March 30, 2021
3:00-4:00pm ET

This webinar will unpack questions like: How are private developers taking action to reduce embodied carbon in their buildings? What are the practical issues and opportunities for taking this advanced sustainability step, while supporting the bottom line? While the pathway to lower emissions from building operation are now well-known, the tools for low-carbon building materials and construction are still being crafted.
Today, COVID-19 has radically changed daily life for most Americans, and has had profound impacts on cities and the real estate industry. Last summer, protests for racial justice sparked a reawakening around civil rights. And throughout the year, national politics have been in an almost constant state of churn. In this webinar, hear from leaders from ULI and beyond who will reflect on our unprecedented pandemic year – and what is coming next.

NBI is launching the first-ever Net Zero Buildings Week to occur the week of March 29– April 2 to showcase zero energy and carbon neutral resources. All firms across the built environment are encouraged to engage!

Our spring selection is *Brave New Home: Our Future in Smarter, Simpler, Happier Housing* by Diana Lind. We will host three virtual meetups for the title, including a kickoff on April 1; Mid-Book Discussion Groups on April 29; and a talk with the Author on May 27. All sessions at 4pm ET via Zoom.

As cities and regions assess priorities in the wake of the events of 2020, suburban areas are advancing ambitious multimodal transportation investments and initiatives to support public health, sustainability, and equitable community development. Hear from experts who are moving beyond the suburban status quo and are at the vanguard of efforts to leverage transportation to catalyze and sustain healthy, equitable communities.
The Evolution of Sustainability Programs: From Energy Efficiency to Health, Resilience, and Zero

April 23, 2021
12:00-1:00pm ET

Join the final webinar in the Blueprint for Green Real Estate webinar series. This webinar will show how ESG in real estate has expanded over time, from basic energy, water, and waste considerations to climate adaptation and resilience, health and well-being, social and racial equity, and embodied carbon.

Did you miss it?

Climate Risk and Market Value: Data Innovations for Real Estate

In this webinar, speakers shared trends in climate analytic tools, recent updates to critical Federal flood rating models at FEMA, insights on insurance markets, and examples of how cities are leveraging data to improve resiliency and quality of life. Attendees left with a critical understanding of what resources are available, how the field of climate analytics is growing, and what questions to ask now while climate risk model improvements are underway.

View Recording Here

ULI Health Leaders Network

The Building Healthy Places Initiative is delighted to announce the 2021 participants in the fourth cohort of the ULI Health Leaders Network. The Health Leaders Network is designed to empower real estate and land use professionals with the skills, knowledge, and networks to improve health and social equity outcomes in their professional practice and communities. Eighty-four professionals in real estate development, planning, design, engineering, finance, health care, and beyond, from across the globe, have been selected to participate in the fourth cohort of the ULI Health Leaders Network.

Learn More Here

Best Practices in Sustainable New Construction

Building on the leading sustainability work that Greenprint member organizations have been implementing since 2009, ULI Greenprint developed The ULI Blueprint for Green Real Estate to support real estate owners and investors looking to develop or accelerate a sustainability program. This webinar unpacks how to integrate sustainability at the start of a development project, from initial building design to sustainable construction strategies.
ULI Reports and Resources

10 Principles for Enhancing Equitable Access to Parks

10 Principles for Enhancing Equitable Access to Parks distills and synthesizes key themes, lessons learned, and best practices from the recommendations of 14 Advisory Services panels and national study visits on parks and open spaces. By sharing lessons from cities' steps toward more equitable park access, this report will serve as a resource for parks departments, developers, local officials, and anyone else seeking to improve equity in their park systems, and help leaders across sectors work toward healthier communities.

Read Full Report

Zooming in on the "S" in ESG: A Road Map for Social Value in Real Estate

Zooming in on ESG: A Roadmap for Social Value in Real Estate aims to develop a shared and better understanding of how to define, create, measure and optimize social value across the real estate industry. Not only it gives an overview of the role of real estate in creating social value, but it also explores current industry perceptions and emerging practices related to social value creation and measurement. The report also maps existing frameworks and tools used to measure, manage and report on social value and guidance towards a roadmap on how to incorporate social value creation in real estate.

Read Full Report

ULI's District Council Task Forces for Health and Social Equity Reports

Beginning in August 2020, member-led task forces organized by ULI district councils in Arizona, Chicago, Sacramento, and Tampa Bay worked to address local policy and regulatory barriers to the creation of healthier and more equitable places. These initiatives were part of ULI's District Council Task Forces for Health and Social Equity Project, led by ULI's Building Healthy Places Initiative with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Read Full Report
ULI Terwilliger Center Home Attainability Index

With the goal of supporting municipalities and members of the development community working to address longstanding home affordability challenges, the Terwilliger Center has released its pilot Home Attainability Index (Index) and District Council Dashboards (Dashboards). These resources will provide a high-level snapshot of the extent to which a housing market provides a range of attainable choices to the regional workforce.

Learn More Here

Partner Reports

The Difference: The Impact of Social Responsibility on Investment Outcomes

The Milton Group recently released The Difference, a journal produced and shared to inspire and encourage awareness, focusing on people, places and outcomes. The report unpacks the impacts of social responsibility on investment outcomes, and dives into ways in which organizations can better enhance their ESG efforts. This journal depicts how likeminded thought leaders in the industry are able to better understand the growing importance of risk mitigation strategies in the investment management industry.

Read Full Report

Opportunities to Get Involved

ChangeLab Solutions' Call for Applications To Join Housing Solutions Collaborative

Join ChangeLab Solutions' Housing Solutions Collaborative - a learning collective for cross-sector teams that offers peer support, technical assistance, and a stipend to help teams from eight cities advance equitable legal and policy solutions to the growing housing crisis. Apply today to advance your team’s vision for housing justice.

Green Lease Leaders Deadline & Multifamily Expansion

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Green Lease Leader application deadline is approaching on March 31st. Apply for gold, silver, or team transaction recognition here. Additionally, the recognition reference guide for landlords can be found here. New for 2021 – Green Lease Leaders has expanded to include prerequisites for multifamily properties.

New in Urban Land Online

- The Pandemic and the Public Realm: Adapting Spaces in a Global Pandemic, Diana Schoder and Matt Norris
- Change for Good: Working toward Healthier and More Equitable Place in Four U.S. Metro Areas, William Zeh Herbig
- While ESG Funds Boom, Creating a Roadmap to Social-Value Measurement, Adam Branson
- Amid Transit Uncertainty, Micromobility Helps Properties Remain Accessible, Diana Schoder
- Task Force Seeks Equitable Development in Sacramento through Strong Community Engagement, Trish Riggs
- Focus on Long-Term Returns Essential to Unlocking Increased Investment in Social Value, ULI Report Says, ULI Staff
- ULI Marks Women's History Month, Mankaa Ngwa-Suh and Kelly Nagel
- Growth and Resilience: Planning for the Recovery of Europe’s Great Cities, Adam Branson

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In the News

- Scooters Are Making A Comeback And May Play An Outsized Role In Multifamily And Office, Bisnow
- Urban Land Institute on Mission to Build 'Green', Reduce Carbon Emissions, Cheddar
- Why real estate is starting to go electric, JLL
- Driving impact in housing affordability and environmental sustainability, Environmental Finance
- Microsoft and Skanska are using this free tool to dramatically cut their carbon, Fast Company
- Science and Engineering Complex named one of the world's healthiest lab buildings, Harvard News
- Seeking portfolio alignment in a climate solutions world, GreenBiz
- Tidal Wave of ESG Funds Brings Profit to Wall Street, The Wall Street Journal
- Tiny Town, Big Decision: What are We Willin to Pay to Fight the Rising Sea?, New York Times
- To Fight Flooding, This City Plans to Renovate - and Retreat, Bloomberg

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