Earth Day 2020

Article: ULI Reflects on the 50th Earth Day and Sustainability in Real Estate

Earth Day turns 50 this year! On this historic occasion, ULI looked back at 50 years of engaging with sustainability in the world of real estate and urban development. We’ve come a long way since 1970, and we continue to grow as an organization as we address carbon emissions, climate resilience, and health in the built environment. Check out the article for perspectives from ULI member leaders like Mary Ludgin, CSEP Advisory Board member from Heitman, former chairman Harry Frampton, and former SVP, Initiatives Uwe Brandes on ULI’s past work and where we might go in the next 50 years.

Read Full Article Here

COVID-19

We know this is a difficult and uncertain time for all of us, and hope everyone is taking the necessary precautions to stay healthy and safe. At ULI, we are working to deliver content virtually that can help all of us better address real
estate’s role in addressing the threat of COVID-19. We are also working to help all of us stay engaged with each other as we look to navigate this crisis together, and to continue our work on health, resilience, and climate mitigation.

We encourage you to check out Urban Land Online’s COVID-19 articles and upcoming events page which has a list of COVID-19 related resources as well as a full listing of ULI’s upcoming webinars. We also encourage you to reach out to us at csep@uli.org with your concerns and questions.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Webinar: Confronting COVID-19: Parks, Public Spaces, and the Pandemic**

May 5, 2020
2:00-3:15pm ET

Parks and public spaces are important at all times, and they have proved especially essential during this pandemic. American cities including Oakland, Philadelphia, and elsewhere are innovating to maximize the potential of public spaces to preserve and enhance physical and mental health in these challenging times. In this joint Urban Land Institute/National Recreation and Park Association webinar, learn more about city strategies, and how parks and public spaces can be safely used to benefit individual and community well-being.

Learn More Here

**Virtual Launch: ULI Chicago | Accessory Dwelling Unit Initiative: Recommendations & Report Launch**

May 7, 2020
8:30-10:00am CDT

Join ULI Chicago for the virtual launch of the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Initiative. The report was developed over the last year by engaging over one hundred industry and community stakeholders to develop a framework for a successful and equitable ADU policy for Chicago, which can also serve as a model for other communities in the region. The Initiative is part of ULI’s District Council Task Forces for Health and Social Equity program with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Learn More Here

**Virtual Forum: 2020 Coastal Forum**

May 13, 2020
10:00am ET

The Coastal Forum is a member-initiated network of leaders in real estate, land use, and climate resilience interested in sharing best practices for coastal development. The Forum offers a dialogue-based setting to analyze trends and share tools and resources. This webinar will showcase innovative waterfront and flood proofing projects in the city of Toronto, including Corktown Common and Port Lands. Registration is complimentary and open to ULI members only.

Register Here
Building Healthy Places Book Club

May 14, 2020
4:00pm-5:15pm ET

The Building Healthy Places team is launching the BHP Book Club to explore topics related to health, wellness, and real estate. Our first title is *Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York’s Master Builder and Transformed the American City* by Anthony Flint. The Book Club will launch on May 14 with a live kick-off via Zoom featuring composer Judd Greenstein and director/animator Joshua Frankel—the creative team behind *A Marvelous Order*, a forthcoming opera about the battle between Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs. We will conclude the read with a group discussion with author Anthony Flint on June 25.

Learn More & Register Here

Webinar: New Opportunities in Sustainable Construction

May 15, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm ET

Save the date for May 15th at 11am ET for ULI Spring Meeting’s virtual concurrent session on Sustainable Construction Innovations featuring Skanska, LendLease, Barton Malow, and Citizen M discussing a range of advancements on embodied carbon, wood construction, augmented reality, and modular construction.

Register Here

Webinar: Unlocking the Power of Parks: How New Approaches Are Creating Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces

June 10, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm ET

Successful parks require innovations like creative approaches to partnerships and new thinking about existing places, including outmoded infrastructure such as abandoned rail lines, parking lots, and highway underpasses. This session will examine new approaches to unlocking the power of parks in communities across the United States and Canada, and how to apply lessons learned to other projects and developments.

Learn More Here

Virtual Forum: ULI Randall Lewis/Building Healthy Places Forum

June 15 & 17, 2020

The ULI Randall Lewis/Building Healthy Places Forum will take place the week of June 15, 2020. This two-part series will feature Toronto-based speakers and projects. Sessions include: Lessons from "North of the Border" on June 15 and Rethinking Toronto’s Social Housing June 17.

Learn More Here
Webinar: Assessing Resilience in U.S. Markets

June 17, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm ET

Webinar panelists will discuss how real estate investors can assess and price climate risk in different markets, considering the findings and emerging best practices profiled in a new ULI/Heitman report. The panel will also explore best practices in cities’ efforts to mitigate climate risk, how the funding methods for these projects could affect the real estate sector, and how cities are using economic modeling to determine the business case for resilience. This webinar is part of the 2020 Spring Meeting Webinar Series, which runs May 11-June 19, 2020.

Learn More Here

Reports and Resources

Decarbonizing the Built Environment: 10 Principles for Climate Mitigation Policies

With leading cities refining their climate action plans and hundreds of more cities preparing to develop plans, the public and private sectors can unite around a set of principles to help accelerate progress toward these shared climate action goals. This recent report, prepared in partnership with USDN, serves as a starting point for cities interested in engaging real estate leaders during the shaping of climate mitigation policies, and for real estate organizations to increase their understanding of the potential impact of these policies—providing useful tools to help city officials and those in the real estate industry engage with each other in a meaningful and ongoing way. Each of the principles identified in this report is a distillation of recommendations identified during ULI’s City and Real Estate Sustainability workshops, in which more than 60 public and private sector leaders participated. Learn more about Greenprint’s city engagement work here.

Read the Full Report Here

Rocky Mountain Institute Tenant Energy Optimization Program Case Study

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), an international nonprofit organization, had outgrown its office space and wanted to lease space in a hyper-energy-efficient and sustainable net-zero-energy (NZE) office building. As a result, RMI ended up as the anchor tenant in Boulder Commons, an all-electric, aspiring NZE property in Boulder, Colorado. At the time of its completion, Boulder Commons, developed by ULI Greenprint member Morgan Creek Ventures, was the largest leased multi-tenant aspiring NZE mixed-use commercial project in the United States. The NZE process for this project was cost-effective for both the developer and the tenants, and it can serve as a model for the next level of high-performing, sustainable tenant spaces.

Read the Full Case Study Here
Joint Call to Action to Promote Healthy Communities Features Landscape Architecture Discussion Guide

April is World Landscape Architecture Month and landscape architects are celebrating their critical work to communities, including to promote health. A discussion guide from a stormwater project in Denver includes tips on how to talk to landscape architects about their work.

Learn More Here

Other Highlights

ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year

Each year, the U.S. EPA honors a group of businesses and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment through superior energy efficiency achievements. Whether a first time Partner of the Year winner, or a Sustained Excellence winner, these small and large organizations from across the United States are saving money, saving energy, and protecting the environment. We are thrilled to announce that 11 Greenprint Members as well as the Urban Land Institute were recognized as 2020 ENERGY STAR Award Winners. Those members include:

- Boston Properties - Partner of the Year
- CenterPoint Energy - Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence
- CommonWealth Partners - Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence
- Hudson Pacific Properties - Partner of the Year
- Jamestown - Partner of the Year
- JLL - Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence
- Kilroy Realty Corporation - Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence
- LaSalle Investment Management - Partner of the Year
- LBA Realty/ LBA Logistics - Partner of the Year
- SL Green Realty Corporation - Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence
- Tishman Speyer - Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence

To see a full list of organizations recognized as 2020 ENERGY STAR winners click here, or to read ULI's press release click here.

Business Case for Resilience in Southeast Florida

ULI’s Urban Resilience program hosted two virtual focus groups to gather industry input on key aspects of the Business Case for Resilience in Southeast Florida project. The Urban Resilience program is partnering with the SEFL District Council and AECOM, on behalf of the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact, to proposes strategies for climate adaptation in the region and assess the business case for implementation of resilience infrastructure. The focus groups provided valuable feedback on how this research can be leveraged to inform decision making and help align region wide communications around resilience. A final report will be published summer 2020.

To view the project overview slide deck from the focus groups click here.
Welcome to ULI Greenprint’s Newest Members

The ULI Greenprint Center for Building Performance is a worldwide alliance of leading real estate owners, investors, and developers committed to improving the environmental performance of the global real estate industry. Through measurement, benchmarking, knowledge sharing, and implementation of best practices, Greenprint and its members strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030. We’re excited to welcome the following new members to the Greenprint community:

- Brookfield Properties
- City Developments Limited
- Crescent Communities
- Gerding Edlen
- Tower Companies

Opportunities to Get Involved

Contribute your Expertise on Wildfire Resilience

ULI’s Urban Resilience program is beginning new research on the real estate implications of and best practices to adapt to wildfires (publication summer 2020). Members can nominate case studies to profile in the final report or contribute their expertise via a phone interview. If you’ve invested or worked on developments or policy in a wildfire-prone area, please contact Elizabeth.Foster@uli.org.

New in Urban Land Online

- Addressing the Impact of COVID-19: A Roundup of Available ULI Resources—ULI Staff
- Confronting COVID-19: ULI Members Give Back to Communities—Leah Sheppard & Katharine Burgess
- How Cities and the Real Estate Industry Can Partner to Fight Climate Change—Justin Arnold
- ULI Earns 2020 Energy Star Award for Excellence—Justin Arnold
- Economics of COVID-19: How “Main Street” Owners Are Working with Tenants—Trish Riggs
- Confronting COVID-19: Healthier Buildings and Optimizing for Mental Health—Trish Riggs
- Finding Solutions to Maintain Toronto’s Densest Affordable Housing—Anthony Paletta
- Living with Water: How Coastal Developers Are Building for Rising Tides—Mary Shanklin
- What Works to Create and Sustain Mixed-Income Communities—Rosie Hepner

In the News

- Workers Won't Return To The Same Office Space They Left—Bisnow
- Pressing Forward: Local Government Climate and Sustainability Staff Speak to Uncertainty Amid Global Health Crisis—ICLEI USA
- Your Building Can Make You Sick or Keep You Well—New York Times
- How You Can Help Your Neighbors and Community—EYA
- Here’s How Coronavirus Could Raise Cities’ Risk for Climate Disasters—New York Times
- The Post-Pandemic Style—Slate
- Co-benefits of urban climate action: A framework for cities—London School of Economics and Political Science

Connect with Us

Join the Center for Sustainability and Economic Performance mailing list by emailing CSEP@uli.org.
The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.