

## **International Living Future Institute Adds Net Zero Energy Building Certification**

*As the need for energy-resiliency increases globally, the Institute responds with a program to verify that 100 percent of a building's energy needs are supplied by on-site renewable sources.*

**TORONTO, Ont. — Oct. 04, 2011** — In an effort to advance far-reaching strategies for energy efficiency and fossil fuel independence in new and operational buildings, the [International Living Future Institute](http://www.living-future.org) unveiled today the Net Zero Energy Building Certification program.

The program is linked to the [Living Building Challenge](http://www.living-future.org), widely considered to be the world's most stringent and progressive green building program. As with the Living Building Challenge, certification is based on actual performance rather than modeled outcomes. Buildings must be operational for at least 12 consecutive months prior to evaluation.

“In the next two decades, we are looking at the disappearance of cheap oil, a scarcity of finite resources, the continual decay of our infrastructure and a ballooning planetary population that will compel us to adjust to new ways of building and being,” says Jason F. McLennan, CEO of the Institute. “We see Net Zero Energy Building Certification as a way to galvanize and recognize widespread efforts to eliminate fossil fuel use and to conserve energy. We also hope that those who seek this sustainable path --- and who are successful -- will capitalize on the possibilities and consider expanding their scope to achieve full Living Building Challenge certification in the future.”

The Net Zero Energy Certification program is the first of its kind and will likely capture the attention of projects around the globe seeking to be free of fossil fuels and carbon emissions. Projects may register from anywhere in the world and nearly any project is eligible for consideration. Renewable energy is defined as passive solar, photovoltaics, wind turbines, solar thermal, direct geothermal, water-powered microturbines, or fuel cells powered by hydrogen generated from renewably-powered electrolysis.

“Third party verification of far reaching goals like net zero energy is critically important to their uptake. Certification and the independent audits we provide are proof that environmental claims are real” says McLennan.

Find out more about the certification program and how to get started by visiting [www.living-future.org/netzero](http://www.living-future.org/netzero).

#####

### **About International Living Future Institute:**

The Institute is a hub for visionary programs like the Living Building Challenge, Cascadia Green Building Council, The Natural Step Network USA and Ecotone Publishing. Our work moves across scales, offering global strategies for lasting sustainability, partnering with local communities to create grounded and relevant solutions and reaching out to individuals to unleash their imagination and innovation.

### **For more information, press only:**

Eden Brukman, International Living Future Institute, 503.228.5533, xt. 4# & [eden.brukman@living-future.org](mailto:eden.brukman@living-future.org)  
Sarah Costello, International Living Future Institute, 503.228.5533, xt. 1# & [sarah.costello@living-future.org](mailto:sarah.costello@living-future.org)  
Gina Binole, GBM Communications, 503.234.5770 & [gina@gbmcommunications.com](mailto:gina@gbmcommunications.com)