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USGBC IOWA PARTNERS WITH CYC TO CREATE BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES
ADVANCE Program Aims to Make Sustainability Accessible for All

DES MOINES, IOWA — Community Youth Concepts (CYC) and the Iowa Market Leadership Advisory Board for the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced the completion of the state’s first ADVANCE project. The goal of the ADVANCE program is to enhance equity in sustainability; the program is designed to meet organizations and communities wherever they are on the path to sustainability and assist them along that path.

With the help of volunteers from McClure Engineering Company, Recycle Me Iowa, the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, IMEG Corp, and Confluence, USGBC and CYC officials used qualitative and quantitative data to inform the development of a series of recommendations to make CYC’s building a more energy efficient, healthy space. USGBC officials and community volunteers now will assist CYC in implementing the recommendations.

“Through significant outreach efforts, USGBC has learned that the values and aspirations of non-traditional audiences are resoundingly similar to those of the green building community: stewardship of land and resources, increased health and prosperity, and the need for justice and equality. Of course, no conversation about buildings could be complete without the ubiquitous desire to reduce operating costs,” said Ryan Snow, USGBC Director of Global Community Development. Two recommendations from the plan, window replacement and solar panel roof installation, will both be complete before the snow flies.

“Sustainability has been a top priority for CYC since we launched in 2008. The opportunity to leverage USGBC Iowa’s expertise has allowed us to see new opportunities and to position our organization to save money and support better health outcomes for our students,” said CYC co-founder and Executive Director Amy Croll.

To find out more or to participate in the ADVANCE program, please contact the USGBC Iowa Market Leadership Advisory Board at iowa@usgbc.org. To learn more about CYC, please contact Amy Croll at amy@cyconcepts.org.

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The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) helps advance spaces that are better for the environment and healthier for people live, work, and play in. Through its community network, continuous collaboration with industry experts, market research publications, and LEED professional credentials, USGBC is a driving force in the green building sector.

Community Youth Concepts (CYC) provides volunteer service opportunities and career-based mentoring to Iowa youth in order to improve their future success as students, professionals, and active community members.