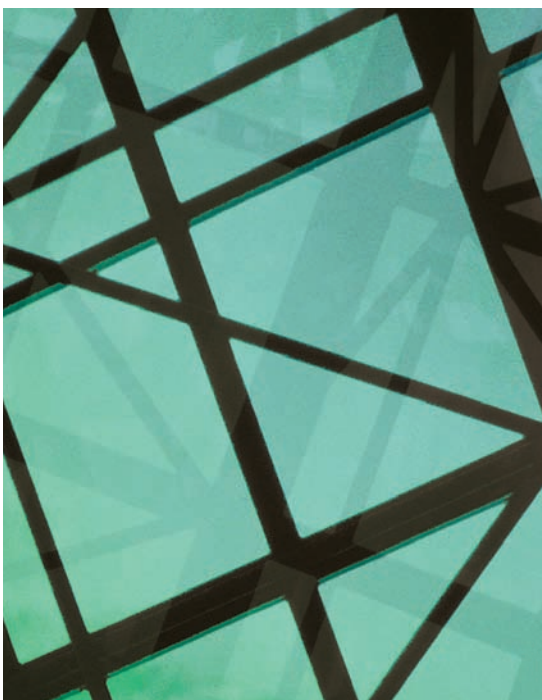


Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council



A building's exterior is very similar to skin on the human body. It protects all of the building's internal systems from the outside world. This "skin" of the building is known as the building enclosure system. It includes both the vertical (walls, windows and doors) and horizontal (roof) systems encasing the building.

The building enclosure system plays an important role in how much energy a building uses. Currently, residential and non-residential buildings account for almost 40 percent of all energy use in the United States. Improving performance can have a serious impact on energy bills, not to mention the comfort and safety of building occupants.

[More →](#)



Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council

In 1978, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiated a national program plan to address building enclosure systems. This program evolved into one of the National Institute of Building Science's first councils, the Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council (BETEC).

Today, DOE and more than 125 corporate and individual members support BETEC. An elected Board of Direction guides the Council. Government agency and association personnel, design and construction professionals, researchers and academics serve on BETEC committees and working groups, propose and review research, and organize symposia and publications.

Building Enclosure Councils

In 2006, the Institute signed a cooperative agreement with the American Institute of Architects to establish Building Enclosure Councils (BECs) in major U.S. cities across the nation. Since then, the program has established 25 chapters, representing both cities and states. More than 3,000 affiliated architects, engineers, contractors, manufacturers and others with an interest in building enclosures participate. To see a complete list of chapters, visit www.bec-national.org.

BEST Conferences

One purpose of BETEC is to educate the industry about building enclosure systems. With that in mind, the BETEC Board of Direction held its first biennial international conference, Building Enclosure Science and Technology (BEST1), in June 2008. The program included new research and development in fenestration, energy efficiency and durability of buildings, moisture control and indoor air quality. BEST2: "A New Design Paradigm for Energy Efficient Buildings" was held

April 12-14, 2010, in Portland, Oregon. BEST3 is scheduled for April 2-4, 2012 in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, visit www.thebestconference.org.

Building Envelope Design Guide

BETEC posts much of its information on the WBDG Whole Building Design Guide® web-based portal, including the *Building Envelope Design Guide (BEDG)*. *BEDG* offers a range of technical information on below-grade systems, wall systems, fenestration systems, roofing systems and atria systems. In addition, technical information on blast safety, seismic safety, wind safety, flood resistance, indoor air quality, chemical/biological/radiological (CBR) safety, sustainability and heating/ventilating/air conditioning (HVAC) integration with building envelope systems is available.

Building Enclosure Commissioning

In 2006, the National Institute of Building Sciences and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers developed the *NIBS Guideline 3: Exterior Enclosures Technical Requirements for the Commissioning Process* to be used with the *ASHRAE Guideline 0-2005: The Commissioning Process*. A volunteer committee consisting of a wide range of experts authored the publication. The finalized guidelines are available on the Whole Building Design Guide website.

Journal of Building Enclosure Design

The *Journal of Building Enclosure Design (JBED)* focuses on the latest developments in building energy conservation, security, and improved building envelope design and performance. It includes peer-reviewed papers from industry experts. The free, full-color technical publication comes out bi-annually. Launched in 2006, *JBED* has a circulation of 8,000 and continues to grow in recognition and readership throughout the United States, Canada and other countries. ■



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