

Quarterly Connection

A NIBS Member Newsletter

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Feature Story

The New Moving Forward Report is Here

Every year, the Consultative Council publishes the Moving Forward Report to investigate key challenges facing the building industry and make recommendations to help overcome those challenges.

The 2022 Moving Forward Report explores the topic of building sector decarbonization, examining key concepts, challenges, and considerations that can help inform decisions about if, where, and how to pursue decarbonization goals, and providing recommendations to policymakers and industry stakeholders on priority actions and next steps.

The report was written by NIBS team members Kyle Barry, Director, Technical Solutions, and Robert Johnson, Project Manager, Building Energy and Resilience.

“The building sector is a significant contributor to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, both in the U.S. and globally,” writes Barry and Johnson, in the new report. “These GHG emissions contribute to the widespread and worsening impacts of human-induced climate change, and can have

adverse effects on local environments and populations by compromising indoor air quality and exacerbating outdoor air pollution. Mitigating these effects by decarbonizing the building sector will take an economy-wide effort, but the need to achieve near- and long-term emissions reductions is critically important.”

The Moving Forward Report provides a reference point on the state of the industry at a specific point in time. NIBS and the Consultative Council intend to periodically revisit each report topic to track progress and discuss potential new challenges and solutions. [Read the Report>>](#)



Mitigation Workshop

Last month, NIBS, with the support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), held a mitigation workshop on natural hazards. The workshop was attended by more than 50 built environment professionals, policymakers from the White House and Congress, and many federal and industry partners.

The workshop aimed to discuss methodologies NIBS is developing for FEMA to assess the natural hazard mitigation needs for the nation. As disasters cost the United States an average of \$100 billion annually, wiping out one month of the \$1.4 trillion of construction put in place in the average year, this study will provide an unprecedented assessment of the nation's enormous mitigation investment needs, in terms of comprehensiveness and understanding community level equity.

The Project Scope

The mitigation workshop began with a welcome from Daniel Kaniewski, Managing Director for the Public Sector with Marsh McLennan, and Dr. Jiqui (JQ) Yuan, NIBS Vice President of Engineering and Executive Director of the Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) and the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (MMC). Speaking to the purpose of the study and workshop, Yuan said, “We can’t set the country in the right direction without knowing how big the problem is.”

Camille Crain, BRIC Section Chief with FEMA, shared her insight about why FEMA initiated the study and how the findings may provide valuable information to policymakers and shape future FEMA grant programs. Laurie Schoeman, with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and Naveed Jazayeri, with the Senate Committee on Homeland

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Security and Governmental Affairs, offered comments about the importance and need of the study.

The NIBS project team shared strategy assessments and insights on many hazard types, including:

- Project overview and methodologies related to earthquake, wildfire, and extreme heat, by Keith Porter (Project Team Chair)
- Utilities and Transportation, tsunamis, and landslides, by Yumei Wang (Project Team Vice Chair)
- Wind methodology, by Don Scott

- Drought, by Mathew Francis
- Flood, by Neil Blais
- Equity, by Eric Tate
- Federal grants and plans, by Kristin Robinson
- Exposure and future weather, by Charles Huyck

Feedback and suggestions during the workshop's group discussions will provide important direction for the project team for the next phase of development.



Built Environment Social Equity Survey

New Built Environment Social Equity Survey to be Released in May

In 2021, the [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) performed a [survey](#) on social equity in the built environment.

The survey was intended for those involved in real estate, design, construction, and/or maintenance of the U.S. built environment—places where people live, work, learn, and play.

The purpose was to establish a baseline and obtain diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging (DEIAB) information across many built industry sectors. Nearly 12,000 responses were collected.

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of respondents were men; almost three in 10 – 28% were women, and 74% of survey respondents identified as White.

The survey results also found 66% of women respondents indicated they experienced discrimination or prejudice in the built environment based on gender.

This May, NIBS will release a follow-up report with responses from its 2023 Built Environment Workforce Survey to get further insights on the U.S. built environment workforce.

So far, the 2023 survey has collected responses from 26 organizations and their memberships.

NIBS' Commitment to DEIAB

In January, NIBS brought together 30 building industry executives to discuss social equity and set goals for a future U.S. built environment workforce that is more inclusive and diverse.

Last year, the Consultative Council released its annual Moving Forward Report, examining the critical area of driving workforce [diversity, equity, and inclusion in the built environment](#). The report found that the U.S. is reaching a crisis point, in terms

of ensuring that a “full pipeline” of skilled workers is available to meet the needs of a rapidly advancing building industry.

The report also stressed that it is critical that the built environment improve access and have targeted recruitment efforts and training for women and underrepresented groups to ensure fair and equitable opportunities for career advancement within the industry.

In addition to the release of the 2023 Built Environment Workforce Survey in May, NIBS has extended invitations to female leaders in the built environment C-suite for the Women Executives in Building Symposium on May 24. On May 25, NIBS will host a follow-up workshop with executives from the January social equity meeting.

Learn more about [NIBS' commitment to DEIAB](#).

Get to Know Feature

Get to Know Darrell Rounds, Treasurer, NIBS Board of Directors

Darrell X. Rounds, FMA, C.E.M., Senior Manager, Global Workplace Risk Mitigation with General Motors, is a veteran strategic leader specializing in optimizing operations, problem solving, and developing and leading teams.

Rounds has served more than 25 years with GM, where he started as a summer intern at the Delta Engine Plant's Facilities Department, shortly after graduating with his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Michigan State University. Rounds spent the bulk of his career with GM in the Facilities Management Space, holding positions ranging from Plant Facility Engineer to Regional Technical Group Manager where he had oversight of 53 million square feet. One of his most prominent roles was leading Facilities Operations at GM's World Headquarters, the Renaissance Center, coupled with the oversight of 30 regional sites across the U.S.

We asked Rounds about his work with the National Institute of Building Sciences.



How long have you been a NIBS member and what brought you to NIBS?

I've been a NIBS member since 2014. I was at a juncture in my career, where I was trying to increase my relevance as a facility manager. I learned about the NIBS Facility Management & Operations Council. I was invited to a committee meeting. I was able to get [former NIBS President and CEO] Henry Green to come to GM and explain NIBS' value proposition. GM became a contributing member to NIBS. I later became the chair of the FMOC, and then I was given the opportunity to serve on the NIBS Board of Directors. I think it was one of the best decisions I made, from a career perspective. The connections I have made have been tremendous.

What's your favorite part of the job?

The skills I've amassed over my 25+ year career has allowed me to do some things consistently – work with teams, develop people as leaders, and ultimately solve problems. I love people, and I believe that I'm a gifted problem solver. I like

collaborating with people to improve the spaces in which we operate.

Today, I'm a Senior Manager, handling Global Workplace Risk Mitigation with General Motors. I celebrated one year in this new position on March 16. Global Workplace Risk Mitigation consists of two functions – contractor safety and design-in-safety, which works to ensure that risks and hazards are eliminated for our line workers as they interface with and operate equipment.

How has the built environment changed over the last 25 years?

When you consider the built environment, from a horizontal perspective, you have a lot of regulatory concerns, especially as they pertain to sustainability and the environment. There's a greater call for accountability and environmental stewardship. From a vertical standpoint, buildings are larger, more sophisticated, and smarter. In my roles at GM, I've been integral in contributing to the creation of the most optimal workspaces for our employees.

With advent of technology, there's a need for us to make sure we have adequate infrastructure in place. An example that's near and dear to me is the adoption of electric vehicles. For example, our capacity and capability for charging is a big component. As it relates to safety, how do we properly store lithium batteries from a manufacturing perspective?



Buildings have become smarter, having leveraged technologies such as the Internet of Things, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. We also have the capability within our designs to leverage concepts like digital twins. Before there's even a shovel in the dirt, this technology allows us to interact with building operations as if construction was complete.

Building Innovation 2023



NIBS Opens BI2023 Speaker Call for Abstracts

The National Institute of Building Sciences has begun planning for Building Innovation 2023, and we're looking for speakers.

BI2023 takes place September 5-7, at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC.

"Building Innovation attracts the industry's most critical movers and shakers from the federal, state and local governments and, of course, across the public and private sectors of the U.S. economy," said AC Powell, JD, CPS, President and CEO of NIBS, in a release. "We invite subject matter experts along with professionals from all corners of the built environment with insight and significant case studies, research, and solutions to submit abstracts for this event."

Building Innovation convenes those who impact the built environment to meet, share lessons learned, and unveil the latest tools and groundbreaking strategies that affect the building community.

BI2023 Key Themes

The conference this year will focus on Resilience, Technology, Workforce Development, and Building Performance & Sustainability.

NIBS seeks speakers to cover the following topics, among others:

- Building information modeling
- Digital twins
- Affordable housing
- Sustainability
- Carbon neutral construction
- Net-zero building design
- Hazard mitigation
- ESG
- Cyber and data security
- Offsite construction

Experts and industry leaders are encouraged to submit an abstract no later than April 28, 2023. For more information about speaker submissions, visit buildinginnovation.org.

Columns



NIBS VP of Engineering Attends White House Climate Resilience Roundtable

In early March, NIBS Vice President of Engineering Dr. Jiqui (JQ) Yuan, P.E., PhD, PMP, joined officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to attend a roundtable with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Black Resilience Network, and others to discuss efforts to reinforce climate resilience.

According to FEMA, the roundtable discussion brought together Black faith-based and community organizations and partners from private and philanthropic sectors, sharing tools and resources to strengthen a whole-of-community approach to climate resilience.

FEMA wrote: “FEMA cannot address the climate emergency alone. It requires a whole-of-government approach and whole-of-community involvement,” said DHS Center Director Marcus Coleman. “Preparing our communities for a changing world also requires a coalition-driven approach to building climate resilience across the nation, and it will take all of us to do so now.”



NIBS President & CEO AC Powell joined the Construction Management Association of America for Focus23 in San Antonio. Powell spoke about NIBS' impact on the built environment. Pictured, from left, CMAA President & CEO Andrea Rutledge, CMAA Board Chair Christine Oates, and Powell.

Geo Week Keynote Panel: How Ready is the AEC Industry for Digitalization?

NIBS BIM Program Director Johnny Fortune sat on the keynote panel at Geo Week at the Colorado Convention Center in February.

Geo Week is a premier event for increased integration between the built environment, advanced airborne/terrestrial technologies, and commercial 3D technologies.

According to Geo Week, McKinsey reported in 2018 how large construction projects typically are 80% over budget and take 20% longer to complete.

Technological innovations to eliminate inefficiencies have been available for several years, but the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated their use. But is the construction industry ready for this shift to innovation?

Geo Week's panel discussed what has and hasn't changed, how organizations define the value of a shift into the digital

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age, and whether or not certain companies and users are ready for it.

The panel moderated by Steve Jones, with Dodge Data and Analytics. In addition to Fortune, the panel included Greg Gidez, of Hensel Phelps; Aaron Moniza, of Foth; Danielle O’Connell, with Skanska USA Building; and Claire Rutkowski, with Bentley Systems. [View the recording.](#)

In related news, Fortune helped lead a recent episode of the Future Construct Podcast with host Amy Peck. The podcast – [Supporting Advances in Building Science and Technology at NIBS](#) – covers many topics, including adoption ratings, inefficiencies, industry standards, and challenges, as well as their impact. They also discussed a roadmap from BIM to the AR cloud and some transcendent industry technologies.



NIBS hosted a reception March 22 for attendees of NFMT 2023 at the Baltimore Convention Center.



New WBDG Page: BioPreferred Program and the Use of Biobased Products

A new [BioPreferred Program and the Use of Biobased Products](#) resource page by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development (RD) [USDA BioPreferred Program](#) was published on March 14, 2023.

The resource page serves as a guide on how to navigate biobased product procurement requirements and how the BioPreferred Program can assist with maximizing biobased product procurement. This page compliments another recently updated page on the WBDG - [Evaluating and Selecting Green Products](#).

WBDG Continuing Education

April 18, 2023: [Inheriting an ESPC Project Post-Award](#)

What is a contracting officer (CO/KO) to do if assigned an energy savings performance contract (ESPC) post-award without prior involvement with the project? What if the CO/KO hasn't been involved with ESPCs for a while?

This training will answer those questions and cover contract requirements, key documents with pertinent information, agency roles, and responsibilities, agency process of voucher/billing submitted by the contractor, and close-out procedures at the completion of the performance period.

May 1-2, 2023: [2023 Federal Utility Partnership Working Group \(FUPWG\) Seminar](#)

FUPWG provides a venue for information exchange and training that fosters effective partnerships between federal agencies and their serving utilities to develop solutions which leverage private sector investment in federal facility infrastructure to improve energy and water efficiency and support federal building decarbonization. The seminar takes place in Arlington, Virginia.



NIBS in the News

CONTRACTOR MAG

Social Equity Key to Boosting Built Environment Workforce

The National Institute of Building Sciences recently convened 30 building industry executives to discuss social equity and goals to steer the future of the U.S. built environment workforce.

NIBS is partnering with Avenue M Group to conduct a biannual survey of the building industry to take the pulse on where things stand, with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Survey results will be released in May. [Read more>>](#)

ARCHITECT MAGAZINE

National Institute of Building Sciences to Publish New DEI Report in May

The Washington, D.C.-based organization is teaming up with Illinois research firm Avenue M Group to collect data. [Read more>>](#)

THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

5 Disaster Resilience Challenges Facing State and Federal Officials

To ensure communities prepare for, recover from, and build resilience to natural disasters, officials at all levels of government must coordinate effectively—which is far easier said than done. To help identify and alleviate challenges to that collaboration, The Pew Charitable Trusts hosted a two-day event for federal and state resilience experts and commissioned an in-depth analysis from Council Oak, a

Washington-based public policy consulting firm, to further explore how to break down barriers among state and federal agencies that inhibit disaster resilience efforts. [Read more>>](#)

BUILDING ENCLOSURE ONLINE

Hud Unveils New Report to Overcome Barriers to Offsite Construction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in partnership with the National Institute of Building Sciences and MOD X, has released the Offsite Construction for Housing: Research Roadmap, a strategic report that presents the key knowledge gaps and research needs to overcome the barriers and challenges to offsite construction.

High prices for buyers and renters are forcing Americans out of their homes and making housing unattainable. This crisis is to a large extent driven by supply constraints. [Read more>>](#)

ALEXANDRIA ECHO PRESS

Massman's \$17M Project Gets Tax Help From Alexandria

Massman Companies' plan to build a \$17 million manufacturing, office and warehouse in Alexandria will receive tax assistance and may get additional business help from the state.

Massman plans to build a 73,000-square-foot building on 80 acres of land at 2233 34th Avenue West to support its past and future growth expansions. There is plenty of room on the site and the company's long-range plan calls for an additional 150,000-square-foot expansion in the future, according to Jeffrey Hohn, president and CEO of Massman. [Read more>>](#)

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

A Look at Resilience Bills in Washington

State

As negative impacts from climate change, including more extreme weather patterns, become more common, resilience—the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover

from and more successfully adapt to adverse events—has emerged as a common organizing principle in policy.

Resilience and climate response go hand in glove: While not completely synonymous, resilience measures can mitigate emissions and help prepare communities for increased instances of disasters and extreme weather patterns. [Read more>>](#)





Observances & Events

March 22-April 21 Ramadan

April 5-13 Passover

April 9 Easter

April 22 Earth Day

April 25 [EV Revolution, GM RE100 Goal and General Motors Perspective](#)

April 28 [Building Innovation 2023 call for speaker abstracts close](#)

April 28 [NIBS call for awards nominations close](#)

April 29 National Rebuilding Day

May Building Safety Month

May National Electrical Safety Month

May National Water Safety Month

May 24 [Women Executives in Building Symposium](#)

May 1-5 Construction Safety Week

June National Safety Month

June Pride Month

June 4-10 National Roofing Week

June 7-10 [NIBS exhibits at AIA Conference on Architecture](#)

June 19 Juneteenth

Find us Online

Disaster Resilience is a Trillion-Dollar Challenge.
Here's What Fema Can do to Help

[Read More>>](#)

Building Executives: Social Equity Key to
Boosting Built Environment Workforce

[Read More>>](#)

Coming in May: New Report on Diversity, Equity,
And Inclusion in the Built Environment

[Read More>>](#)

HUD Unveils New Report to Overcome
Barriers to Offsite Construction

[Read More>>](#)

U.S. National BIM Program Names Workstream Leads

[Read More>>](#)

Celebrating Women's History Month: Get
to Know Anne Ellis, Nibs Board Chair

[Read More>>](#)

National Institute of Building Sciences
Seeks BI2023 Speakers

[Read More>>](#)



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