

# GEORGIA PEACH GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEM

## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### I. History and Purpose

#### Section 1: History.

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction Act of 2008 (the "Act", codified at O.C.G.A. § 50-8-18) authorized the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to adopt policies and procedures for recommended energy and efficiency standards for all buildings owned or managed by the state. The Act also authorized the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to designate a rating system for high performance energy modeling and environmental efficiency in the construction of state buildings. In 2009, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs adopted Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction Standards for State Buildings, and designated the rating system as the Georgia Peach Green Building Rating System (the "Georgia Peach Program").

#### Section 2: Purpose.

The purpose of the Georgia Peach Program is to rate and recognize buildings owned or managed by the state that optimize energy performance, increase the demand for materials and furnishings produced in Georgia, improve the environmental quality in this state, conserve energy, protect the state's natural resources, and reduce the burden on the state's water supply. In furtherance of this purpose, the Georgia Peach Program will:

- a. Receive and review nominations for the award of certification and suitable award for project nominations submitted by a state agency;
- b. Recognize state-funded facilities that achieve one of the Peach rating levels in the Georgia Peach Program by publicizing the project at Georgia Association of State Facilities Association (GASFA) conferences and providing a formal letter of certification and award; and
- c. Promote incentives for the effective and efficient planning, development, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of sustainable State of Georgia facilities;
- d. Provide and promote inter-governmental agency and public-private cooperation on issues of interest and benefit to the development of higher performance energy modeling and environmental efficiency in state facility design and construction.

## II. Structure and management of the Peach Program

Section 1: Georgia Peach Program Executive Committee.

a. Purpose: The Georgia Peach Program Executive Committee (the "Executive Committee") shall be responsible for the over-all policy and direction of the Peach Program.

b. Members: The Executive Committee shall consist of members from the leadership of Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC), Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (BOR), Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), and shall receive no compensation for their service as an Executive Committee member.

c. Powers: The Executive Committee, in addition to soliciting industry partner Review Committee nominees, shall appoint individuals to serve on the Georgia Peach Program Review Committee (the "Review Committee"), and shall have the authority to expand Review Committee membership to include additional state agency representatives and non-voting affiliate members. The Executive Committee shall also have the power to remove any member from the Review Committee.

Section 2: Georgia Peach Program Review Committee.

a. Purpose: The Georgia Peach Program Review Committee (the "Review Committee") shall be responsible for the day to day operation of the Peach Program, and shall evaluate all nominations for Peach Awards received from the Executive Committee or from any eligible party.

b. Members: The Review Committee shall consist of three (3) employees of the State of Georgia, one member each from GSFIC, BOR, GEFA; and four (4) members from industry partners engaged in or having an interest in the design and construction of state facilities. Members shall serve a two-year calendar term from the date of the member's appointment, and are eligible for re-appointment. Members shall receive no compensation for their service as a Review Committee member.

c. Affiliate members: From time to time, and solely at the discretion of the Executive Committee, Affiliate members may be appointed to the Review Committee to serve in an advisory, non-voting, role. Affiliate members are not eligible to review Peach Award nomination submissions, but may provide recommendations to the Review Committee. An Affiliate member's appointment to the Review Committee is only for the duration indicated by the Executive Committee, and the appointment may be terminated at any time by the Executive Committee. The participation of

Affiliate members in the functions of the Review Committee shall be featured in appropriate GASFA conference literature and on the GSFIC/GASFA website.

d. Meetings: The Review Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis, or at such time as designated by the Chair of the Review Committee, to review Peach Award nomination submissions, and to award a formal letter of certification and an award to each successful nominee. Notice of any Review Committee meeting shall be given to each Review Committee member by posting the notice on the GSFIC/GASFA websites and by e-mail not less than seven (7) working days prior to the meeting date. It shall be the responsibility of each Review Committee member to make certain that the Review Committee Chair has the current e-mail address of each member.

e. Chair: The three (3) State employee members of the Review Committee shall, by a majority vote, elect one member to serve as the Chair. The Chair shall serve a term of approximately one year from the date of election, at which time the three State employee members shall elect a new Chair. The Chair shall be responsible for sending out notice of any meeting of the Review Committee to all members.

f. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total Review Committee members. A quorum must be present before any business of the Review Committee can be transacted or any Peach Award nomination submission may be evaluated. Review Committee members may attend meetings via video and/or audio conferencing.

g. Vacancies: When a vacancy on the Review Committee exists, the Executive Committee shall appoint a new member from the same classification as the vacant position (either a State employee or an industry representative). If the vacant position is from the industry partners, the Executive Committee will consult with industry leaders who will make recommendations to fill the vacancy as described herein. Should the Chair be unable to fulfill their term of service, a Review Committee member from GSFIC, BOR or GEFA shall assume the Chair position. Any vacancy shall be filled within 60 days.

h. Resignation, Termination and Absences: Resignation from the Review Committee must be in writing and received by the Chair. A Review Committee member shall be removed from the committee after missing three (3) consecutive scheduled meetings. A Review Committee member may be removed for other cause by a three-fourths vote of the Review Committee members.

### **III. Peach Award nomination submittals**

#### Section 1: Submittals.

a. Projects nominated for Peach Certification must be submitted by an authorized representative of the using agency to the Review Committee Chair, or to a member of the Executive Committee in a single pdf format at [georgiapeach@docs.e-builder.net](mailto:georgiapeach@docs.e-builder.net).

b. All nominations for Peach Certification shall be addressed to the Chair of the Review Committee or a member of the Executive Committee, 270 Washington Street, Second Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334; and shall contain an executive summary of the facility outlining, scope, square footage, number of story, Stated Cost Limitation, project duration, a maximum of four building photos among other key information. Additionally, all nominations must contain the completed forms (including the Submittal Template and a certification by the Design Professional) required in the current version of the published Georgia Peach Green Building Rating System manual and shall request that the project be reviewed and awarded the appropriate number of points and the corresponding number of "peaches" as indicated in the manual.

Section 2: Application Fee. Each nomination submittal must be accompanied by a check made payable to GSFIC for the sum of \$1,000.00 to cover administrative costs.

Section 3: Notification of Submittal Status. The award of Peaches for each project will be the responsibility of the Peach Review Committee. The party that submits a nomination will be notified of the status of each submittal within three (3) months of the submission date of the nomination.

### **IV. Award Presentation**

Nominations for Peach Awards that are approved by the Review Committee shall be recognized by a certification letter and suitable award.

### **V. Amendments**

These guidelines may be amended by the Executive Committee at any time, upon agreement by the Executive Committee.

DATED: June 6, 2013

By signing below, the members of the Executive Committee acknowledge and agree that the guidelines above are the current version of the guidelines for the Georgia Peach Green Building Rating System Program, and these guidelines supersede any previous version of the Georgia Peach Program guidelines.

BY: Marvin Woodward, Deputy State Property Officer - GSFIC