

# Symposium: Call for Papers

## Building Envelope Sustainability: *The Future is in the Balance*

The mission of the symposium will be to identify potential conflicts in the expanded role of the building envelope and to feature strategies that optimize building sustainability and occupant security. Examples of topics to be explored include:

**Sustainable Systems - Sustainable Materials - Sustainable Practices - Sustainability Metrics - Design Issues**



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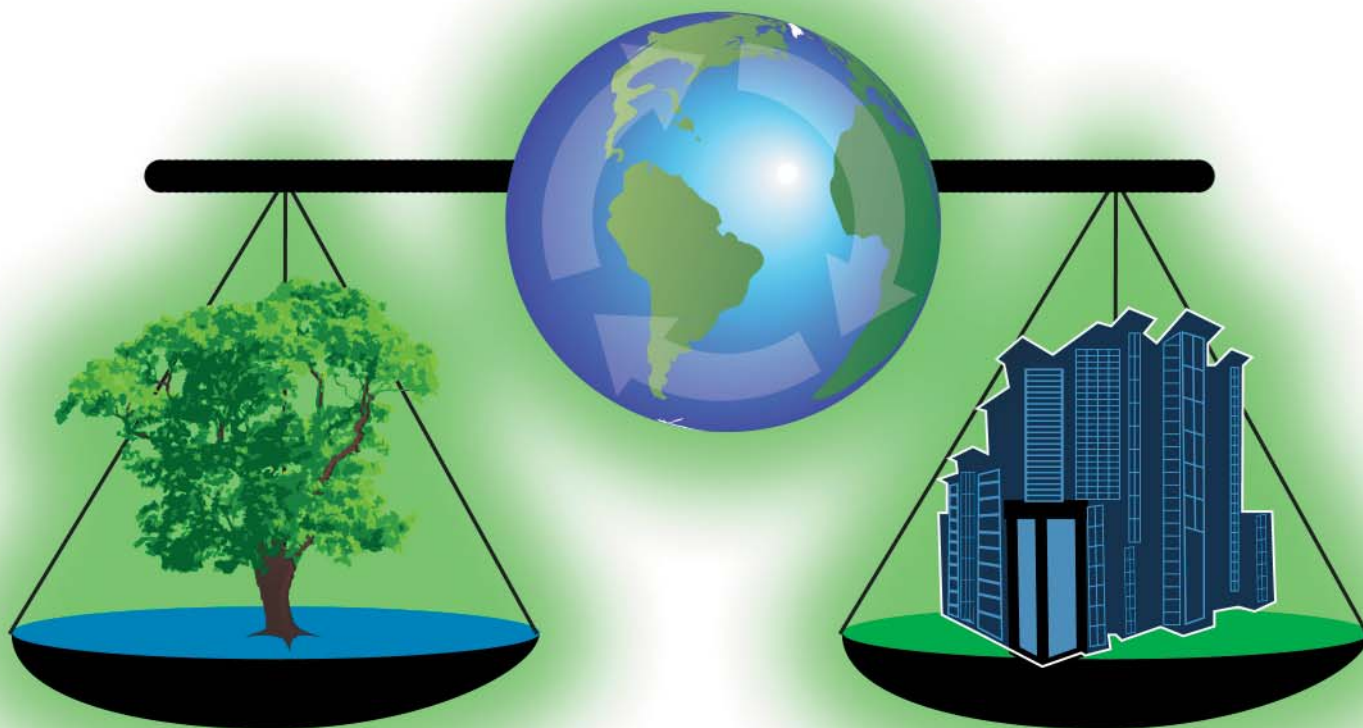
Institute for  
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Construction



National Institute of  
BUILDING SCIENCES



Building Envelope Technology  
and Environment Council



**Event Dates:**  
**April 30 – May 1, 2009**

**Event Location:**  
**Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC**

For consideration, submit a 250-word abstract by November 1, 2007. Submit abstracts and/or questions to:  
CJ Walters, RCI Foundation, 1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 204, Raleigh, NC 27607-5041 (800-828-1902 / [cjwalters@rci-online.org](mailto:cjwalters@rci-online.org)).

In a continuing effort to support research, education and the dissemination of information important to the building industry, the RCI Foundation, in conjunction with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, National Institute of Building Sciences, and the National Research Council Canada is issuing a Call for Papers concerning sustainable building envelope design.

The two-day symposium will focus on evolving philosophies concerning the most cost-effective methods to address construction of sustainable building envelopes. This is an opportunity to share your knowledge of this important subject and make a difference in our industry.

**Event Title:** Building Envelope Sustainability: The Future is in the Balance  
**Event Location:** Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC  
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Since the dawn of civilization, the building envelope has served a basic and universal purpose: to provide shelter for its occupants. The roofs and walls that make up the building envelope protect us from extremes of temperature, the harmful effects of the sun's rays, the intrusion of moisture, the devastation of storms, and the spread of fire. Although the appearance of the building envelope has changed dramatically as new construction materials have been developed, its basic function as a sheltering skin has remained the same.

Growing world-wide awareness of human impact on the environment has created important, new missions for the building envelope. In addition to sheltering its occupants from the daily changes in weather conditions, the modern building envelope must safeguard future generations from man-made changes to global climate. It must keep its occupants safe from the hazards of wind, rain and fire, and it must protect future generations from the hazards of pollution and the depletion of natural resources. This new mission for the building envelope is frequently referred to as being "sustainable," "green," or "environmentally-friendly" building design and construction.

Adding sustainability to the time-honored function of shelter offers both opportunities and challenges for the building community. The addition of sustainability to building envelope design is already leading to innovative solutions that may improve both the materials and the methods used to construct building roofs and walls. But this integration may also bring conflicts that will require critical evaluation to find the most optimal, cost-effective solutions to reconcile environmental protection with occupant protection. Additionally, the deployment of new construction materials and methods to achieve building envelope sustainability may pose challenges to the current delivery system for constructing roofs and walls. Finally, the long-term performance of sustainable building materials and methods may require new approaches to the maintenance of roofs and walls in order to achieve service life targets and to prepare for the eventual removal and recycling of the materials. Above all, the integration of sustainability into the building envelope will require a new balance – a balance of functional goals and a balance of methods to achieve these goals.

The mission of this symposium is to identify potential conflicts in the expanded role of the building envelope and to feature strategies that optimize building sustainability and occupant security.

### Examples of topics to be explored include:

**Sustainable Systems** — *New approaches to building envelope systems, including building-integrated photovoltaics, garden roofing, and cool roofing.*

**Sustainable Materials** — *New and emerging building envelope materials that offer increased sustainability.*

**Sustainable Practices** — *New approaches to the manufacture, installation, maintenance, removal and recycling of building envelope materials.*

**Sustainability Metrics** — *New approaches to measuring and classifying sustainable materials, systems, and practices including life-cycle costing.*

**Design Issues** — *Examination of critical design issues affected by new sustainable building envelope materials, including fire safety, long-term weathering and durability, wind and storm resistance, moisture migration and mitigation, thermal design, and alternative approaches.*

The deadline for submitting proposals for Symposium consideration is November 1, 2007. Proposals should be submitted as a 250-word abstract. A committee comprised of members from the symposium sponsors will review all abstracts. Please e-mail abstracts and/or questions to: CJ Walters, RCI Foundation, 1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 204, Raleigh, NC 27607-5041 (800-828-1902 / [cjwalters@rci-online.org](mailto:cjwalters@rci-online.org)).