INSTITUTE FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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First-Ever Lifelong Homes Certified

Congratulations to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver for certifying the first-ever Lifelong Homes in December. Habitat renovated two individual two-bedroom units of its High Street Homes, located in Denver's Cole neighborhood, using IBE's Lifelong Homes guidance. Close to public transit, parks, and community amenities, the homes meet the needs of any resident, regardless of age or ability.

moderate-income families. Families have been given Resident Guides to help them make the most of their home's Lifelong amenities. One new homeowner is excited that her cousin who uses a wheelchair can visit, thanks to the home's accessibility features, and said, "It's nice to know I can live in this home forever if I want!"

Read more:

- IBE's Lifelong Homes & Communities certification
- Forbes article, "Experts Share 8 Home Features That May Boost Longevity and Property Value," for which IBE's Elicia Ratajczyk was interviewed

Take Action

Cleaner Heat, Cooler Air



DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments) launched a new program that makes it easier for owners of homes, other buildings, and businesses to upgrade to more comfortable, energy-efficient heating and cooling. **Power Ahead Colorado offers resources to install heat pumps**, including expert advising, vetted installers, and soon, rebate support.

Learn more about how Power Ahead Colorado can help you.

Regen Schools at Green Schools Conference

If you're attending the Green Schools Conference in San Diego next month, don't miss the "**Regenerative Schools" session on Wednesday, February 18**, at 2:30 pm. IBE's Brian Dunbar will co-present how a place-based paradigm can help K-12 schools regenerate their students, teachers, and broader community — human and natural.

Also check out IBE's latest whole school sustainability work in Ethiopia, which is helping inform a new regenerative schools framework we're developing with partners across the education and sustainability sectors.

CSU Mass Timber Collaboratory



Faculty, staff, students and industry professionals interested in mass timber are invited to join CSU's new Mass Timber Collaboratory. Collaboratory members will help identify opportunities to advance mass timber construction through research, education, and engagement. Spring 2026 activities include a BBQ mixer, expert guest lecture, strategic planning session, and building and forest tours. Complete this form to express interest and stay in the loop.

Applause & Recognition

Brian Dunbar Voted Green Building Champion



IBE's very own Brian Dunbar was voted by the community as **2025 Colorado Green Building Guild Green Champion**. Congrats, Brian — a well-deserved honor for all you've done and continue to do for our northern Colorado communities!

Josie Plaut Named IBE Co-Director



Josie Plaut, who began with IBE as a student intern, has been **named Co-Director**. IBE Founder and Executive Director Brian Dunbar says, "For over 20 years, Josie has dedicated her talent, energy, and ideas to help IBE shape its vision and carry out its strategy. She has helped grow our organization and our community, and I'm honored to now call her my co-director!"

Thanks to Our Supporters

A special thanks to these organizations and individuals for their recent



Homes & Communities possible:

- Cornerstone
- Dohn Construction
- Mountain Village
- Steve Erikson

Invest in Impact

Private donations advance IBE's strategic initiatives in ways our project work cannot: by translating research to practice to guide the entire green building movement forward. Your gift can support student scholarships and stipends, and special programs such as Lifelong Homes & Communities.

Make a Gift Today

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