



# Backgrounder: Welcome to BOMA BEST

This year marks an evolution in BOMA Canada's green building certification initiatives.

The BOMA Go Green and Go Green Plus programs have been remarkably successful. We've now updated these into a streamlined certification, called BOMA BEST. Since launching Go Green and Go Green Plus in 2005, BOMA has certified over 800 commercial buildings and counts major corporations such as Cadillac Fairview, Bentall Real Estate, SNC Lavalin Profac and GWL Realty Advisors as satisfied participants.

Public Works and Government Services of Canada adopted Go Green Plus as the standard for all of its existing buildings. Provincial government agencies including Alberta Infrastructure and the Ontario Realty Corporation are also using BOMA's certification program for their buildings.

BOMA Go Green and Go Green Plus participants have seen significant and quantifiable improvement in their environmental management. On average, BOMA certified buildings use 11% less energy and 18% less water than the industry standard. We estimate that the first 200 buildings certified under Go Green Plus now save a combined total of 333 million kilowatt hours (equivalent to 37,000 homes heated by electricity) and 1 million litres of water, per year.

BOMA BEST integrates Go Green and Go Green Plus to build on this success and provide an even better program for the industry. The new program features four possible levels of certification, enhanced accessibility and a simplified application procedure.

These improvements will better serve Canada's real estate industry, facilitating performance improvement and helping building owners and managers to reduce their carbon footprint. Very simply, BOMA BEST is an efficient, affordable way to make buildings more ecologically friendly and to cut costs.

Participants are fully engaged in the program, from beginning to end. They evaluate their own facilities through our online questionnaire, assess their environmental management and learn what best practices they can implement to improve performance. All buildings that achieve certification are assessed for compliance and accuracy by a third-party verifier during a site visit.

BOMA BEST currently focuses on commercial buildings, but new criteria are being developed for shopping centres, industrial and retail strip developments and multi-unit residential properties. Pilot projects will be underway in the Toronto area for shopping centres and industrial and retail strip developments in October. Watch for these new parts of the program in 2009.

Further details on the program are available at: [www.bomabest.com](http://www.bomabest.com).

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