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For Immediate Release

E2Tech Hosts Evening with U.S. Green Building Council President and CEO Mahesh Ramanujam on March 10

The evening discussion with USGBC's chief executive will focus on the future of green building

PORTLAND, ME, 02/21/20 — E2Tech, in partnership with sponsors Thornton Tomasetti and SMRT Architects and Engineers, is hosting an evening discussion with Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO of Washington D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council. The forum, titled "Is There Life Beyond LEED? The Future of Green Building", is scheduled for 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 10 at CEI in Brunswick.

[E2Tech](#) Executive Director Marty Grohman will introduce Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO of the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) (USGBC) and [Green Business Certification](#), Inc. (GBCI). Mahesh will offer his perspective on the evolution of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and discuss the refocus on health & wellness and definable goals like Net Zero energy consumption. Mahesh will then lead attendees in a group discussion.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. According to USGBC, Maine is home to more than 230 LEED projects representing more than 13 million gross square feet of space. More than 130 of those have certified to-date. Projects across the state using LEED include offices, as well as higher education buildings, retail locations, K-12 schools, healthcare, lodging and multifamily residential structures. LEED can be applied to virtually any building type and is being used by more than 100,000 around the world.

With buildings generating nearly [40% of annual global GHG emissions](#), the urgency to fast-track green building practices is apparent. Green building is not only key to halting climate change, but it is also good for the economy. According to a [2018 global survey](#), green building activity is expected to continue growing through 2021 with nearly half of respondents indicating the majority of their projects to be green. Two-thirds of survey participants also report that using a rating system like LEED allows them to create a better performing building, and more than half of respondents believe that rating systems provide third party verification that ensure buildings are running in a sustainable manner.

"We want to revitalize our discussions around efficient, sustainable building in Maine," says Grohman, executive director of E2Tech. Grohman explains that the forum tops off the first full day meetings of the building's working group of the [Maine Climate Council](#). "We think imagining more efficient big box stores and single-family homes is very important to protecting our way of life and clean air and water," says Grohman.



At 5:30 PM, a complimentary hors d'oeuvres and local beer & wine networking session will precede Mahesh Ramanujam's presentation. For more information on the event and full bios, visit [the event web page](#).

About the US Green Building Council:

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, an international network of local community leaders, the annual [Greenbuild International Conference & Expo](#), the [Center for Green Schools](#) and [advocacy](#) in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit [usgbc.org](#) and connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About E2Tech

[E2Tech](#) is a member-based organization comprised of individuals, businesses, and organizations that seek to build Maine's environmental and energy technology economy. Members include renewable power companies, environmental engineers, emerging entrepreneurs, innovators, and designers, as well as government agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations and businesses that see the economic promise of cleantech for Maine

About Thornton Tomasetti:

[Thornton Tomasetti](#) optimizes the design and performance of structures, materials and systems for projects of every size and level of complexity. An employee-owned organization of engineers, scientists, architects and other professionals collaborating from offices worldwide, we support clients by drawing on the diverse expertise of our integrated practices. We are committed to be a sustainable and enduring organization and the global driver of innovation in our industry.

About SMRT Architects and Engineers: SMRT is a team of architects, engineers, planners and professionals committed to solving problems through design. Our building science knowledge optimizes building performance and sustainability, while reducing impacts on the environment. We specialize in creating complex, 24-7 facilities for clients with challenges in education, healthcare, science/technology/industry, justice, government and workplace environments. You'll love how we work – together. [smrtinc.com](#)