



NIC LEHOUX

CLIMATE TAKE BACK CASE STUDY

THE LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE

A global challenge to create buildings that give more than they take

WHAT IS IT?

The Living Building Challenge is the world's most rigorous proven performance standard for buildings. Its regenerative design framework aims to create spaces that give more than they take.

HOW DID IT DEVELOP?

The International Living Future Institute is a hub for visionary programs. The Institute offers global strategies for lasting sustainability, partnering with local communities to create grounded and relevant solutions, including green building and infrastructure solutions on scales ranging from single room renovations to neighborhoods or

whole cities. The Institute administers the Living Building Challenge, the most rigorous and ambitious building performance standard. It is the parent organization for Cascadia Green Building Council. It is also home to Ecotone Publishing, a unique publishing house dedicated to telling the story of the green building movement's pioneering thinkers and practitioners.

The International Living Future Institute (ILFI) is a certification hub that helps people around the globe create beautiful, healthy spaces. It has its roots in the Cascadia Green Building Council, an organization with a volunteer board. In just over a decade, it has become an organization with an international reach, a staff of 34 and an annual budget approaching \$5 million.

Its core program is the Living Building Challenge, and it also runs the Living

Community Challenge, the Living Product Challenge, and the support programs Declare, Just and Reveal.

The organization also runs the Living Future Network, a global volunteer initiative to encourage the widespread adoption of the Institute's restorative programs.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Living Building Challenge works with people from around the world who want to create healthy, efficient, ecologically restorative spaces for their community.

Project teams hoping to meet the Living Building Challenge Standard need to start early on in the process. The organization provides guidance at every phase of the building project, from predesign through to the end of the 12-month performance period.

Once the project is complete, project teams submit documentation to show that their building meets the Standard and an independent auditor undertakes a site visit. Buildings that meet the Standard can be featured on the Living Building Challenge's website as examples of best practice.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

There are now over 300 registered Living Building Challenge projects in nearly 30 countries.

In 2015, these projects produced 700,000 kWh of renewable energy, saved over 90 billion gallons of water, and offset 750 tons of CO₂ equivalent.

But perhaps the most important impact of the Living Building Challenge is on the mindsets of those in the building industry: proving that sustainable, beautiful buildings are possible.

WHAT ARE THE END PRODUCTS?

Living buildings give more than they take, creating a positive impact on the human and natural systems that interact with them. They are:

- Regenerative spaces that connect occupants to light, air, food, nature, and community.
- Self-sufficient and remain within the resource limits of their site. Living Buildings produce more energy than they use and collect and treat all water on site.
- Healthy and beautiful.

WHO BENEFITS?

Project teams that register with the Living Building Challenge benefit from a globally-recognised standard for their healthy and sustainable building. Architects, engineers, planners, developers and designers can take part in the challenge, and may find it easier to attract investment with the standard. Homeowners and commercial residents

of living buildings benefit from healthier spaces that use less energy and water.

HOW CREDIBLE IS THIS?

So far, over 300 projects have registered with the Living Building Challenge, and 74 have been certified. The International Living Future Institute acknowledges that it is at a tipping point: moving from a fledgling organization with some innovative programs to an established non-profit with potentially significant impact. One of the key challenges ahead is for the organization to measure its impact robustly and clearly.

WHY WE LOVE THIS

In order to drive a revolution in the way our buildings let nature cool, we'll need to be able to imagine it. And nothing helps the imagination more than a few best-practice examples of beautiful, functional and sustainable buildings that benefit their surrounding communities.

 [LIVING-FUTURE.ORG/LBC](https://living-future.org/lbc)

CLIMATE TAKE BACK

At Interface, we're convinced a fundamental change needs to happen in our global response to climate change. We need to stop thinking about how to merely limit the damage caused by climate change – and start thinking about how to create a climate fit for life.

Our new mission is called Climate Take Back – and we invite you to join us.

Find out more at our website [here](#)

Interface®

LIVE ZERO

Aim for zero negative impact on the environment

LEAD THE INDUSTRIAL RE-REVOLUTION

Transform industry into a force for the future we want

LOVE CARBON

Stop seeing carbon as the enemy, and start using it as a resource

LET NATURE COOL

Support our biosphere's ability to regulate the climate

