Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Massachusetts Receives Top Environmental Honors For Boston Headquarters

Project is 12th-largest LEED-CI v2009 Platinum Certified project in U.S.

BOSTON, April 19, 2017 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (Blue Cross) recently received top honors from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for the design of our corporate headquarters at 101 Huntington Ave., making us the largest project in New England and 12th largest in the nation by square footage to be LEED® Platinum certified out of nearly 3,300 projects. We received our LEED Platinum certification using LEED CIv2009 – Commercial Interiors criteria.



The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, rating system, developed by the USGBC, is the foremost program for buildings, homes, and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained, and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

In addition to designing office space to earn a LEED Platinum certification, Blue Cross went further to create a building that reflected our commitment to health and wellness. We included features like a Wellness Center with yoga and meditation classes, flame retardant free furniture, height-adjustable desks for every associate, nutritious and sustainable food options and compostable cafeteria wares, and open internal stairways.

"We at Blue Cross know that supporting associate well-being in the workplace includes providing a healthy built environment and encouraging healthy individual behaviors. Our move to 101 Huntington allowed us to create a completely new office space focusing on sustainability, health and wellness, collaboration, and innovation," said Kyle Cahill, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Health.

Blue Cross achieved the LEED Platinum rating because of many environmentally progressive features, such as:

- Occupancy sensors and 100% LED lighting throughout the space.
- Carpeting made from 100% renewable material.
- 96% of seated spaces with access to daylight.
- 91% of construction waste diverted from landfill.
- Ergonomic workstations with height-adjustable desks.

City of Boston Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space Austin Blackmon praised Blue Cross for their recent LEED honors. The city ranks fifth among 1,324 metropolitan areas in the country for the most LEED-certified square footage. In addition, Massachusetts ranks #1 in the nation for LEED-certified square footage per capita.

"Boston is at the forefront of green building and design, and Blue Cross' LEED Platinum certification is a great example of our city's leadership in this important area," Blackmon said.

"Our Platinum certification puts us in very special company," said Blue Cross SVP of Financial Services Tony Centrella. "We are extremely proud that our headquarters is one of only a dozen buildings in the country to achieve this honor at this scale. We are especially proud that, together with our design and construction partners, we were able to transform an existing building in the heart of downtown Boston into a model of environmentally sustainable design."

Blue Cross is the largest health plan in the Commonwealth, and with this latest certification, three of our largest offices are LEED certified—101 Huntington in Boston (Platinum), 25 Technology Place in Hingham (Silver), and One Enterprise Drive in Quincy (Certified).

You can read more about our latest sustainability results and our 2020 sustainability goals in our recently released 2016 Annual Report.

About Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (bluecrossma.com) is a community-focused, tax-paying, not-for-profit health plan headquartered in Boston. We're the trusted health plan for more than 25,000Massachusetts employers and are committed to working with others in a spirit of shared responsibility to make quality health care affordable. Consistent with our corporate promise to always put our 2.8 million members first, we're rated among the nation's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

About U.S. Green Building Council
The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to transforming the way our buildings are designed, constructed and operated through LEED — the top third-party verification system for sustainable structures around the world. Every day USGBC is helping advance spaces that are better for the environment and healthier for us to live, work and play in. Through our community network, continuous collaboration with industry experts, market research publications and LEED professional credentials, USGBC remains a key driving force in the green building sector.

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