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## BOMA Go Green Environmental Certification Program Grows

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Ottawa, ON –

BOMA Go Green continues to make impressive strides as the only industry-developed, national environmental recognition and certification program for existing commercial buildings in this country. The Building Owners and Managers Association of Canada (BOMA) is proud of its leadership role in developing and launching a tool designed to have a significant impact on the commercial real estate industry's approach to environmental issues. Now, BOMA Canada is pleased to announce the launch of the next phase of this important initiative, Go Green Comprehensive. This added element of the Go Green program, based on the Green Globes web-based assessment tool, adds an important new dimension to BOMA Canada's program.

Participants in this voluntary program laud its accessibility, affordability and ease of use. To date, over 40 buildings have achieved Go Green certification, with many more applications in process.

An additional 120 buildings which have received third party verification through the Green Globes program will also be grandfathered to receive Go Green Comprehensive certification. Building owners and managers from coast to coast are realizing that the Go Green program offers tangible and significant benefits.

In the quest to help transform all buildings in Canada, regardless of size, into environmentally sensitive and energy efficient workplaces, BOMA Canada initially developed Go Green as a best practices approach. In expanding this offering to include the benchmarking capabilities of Go Green Comprehensive, BOMA is bringing additional value to the program, enabling participants to:

- Develop action plans to achieve savings on resource consumption costs and by reducing waste
- Evaluate an entire portfolio of buildings and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each building
- Capitalize on a valuable marketing and tenant relations tool
- Foster increased environmental consciousness in building design and operations; and
- Recognize that environmental objectives are a key part of strategic asset planning for commercial buildings.

Currently, there is no better tool in Canada than Go Green Comprehensive to measure the environmental performance of existing commercial buildings. Based on the Green Globes assessment tool, the real value of Go Green Comprehensive is in the level of detail it provides. Go Green Comprehensive delivers scoring reports on how a building is performing, as well as providing very specific questions that enable the building manager to look at the components needed to achieve the benchmarks. As a result, Go Green Comprehensive empowers the people who are actually managing the building to participate in the process. The program measures the building's environmental factors such as energy use, indoor health and environmental performance against the best industry operation and management practices. In addition, Go Green Comprehensive is an important educational tool, designed to encourage sustainable best practices throughout the commercial real estate industry.

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Like Go Green, the Go Green Comprehensive program focuses on a building's key environmental criteria, including:

- Energy (energy consumption, features, management, transportation)
- Water (water efficiency)
- Resources (waste reduction and recycling; site)
- Emissions, Effluents and Other Impacts (air emissions; ozone depletion; water effluents, hazardous materials, hazardous products, health & safety and WHMIS)
- Indoor Environment (indoor air, lighting, noise); and
- Environmental Management (EMS documentation, purchasing policy, emergency response, tenant awareness)

Go Green Comprehensive will enable owners to benchmark a building's performance through a clear, comprehensive report that identifies strengths and weaknesses, and measures the performance of each building. It will also identify areas for potential savings in resource consumption, from both capital improvements and enhanced building management processes. The program is designed to both monitor the ongoing performance and improvements of a building's operations, and provide a tool to address tenant expectations for healthier workplaces, in a recognized and cost-effective way. Ultimately, Go Green Comprehensive is about leveraging each building's strengths. A healthy workplace presents a marketing opportunity to attract environmentally-conscious tenants.

As BOMA Canada looks to the future, green compliance is expected to continue to be a part of government legislation, programs and incentives. Go Green puts the industry ahead of the game. Participants in this important national environmental initiative are already being recognized as leaders in environmental stewardship. As additional buildings across the country achieve their certification, BOMA Canada is confident that BOMA Go Green will result in healthier workplaces and measurable improvements in building development and management practices.

The BOMA Go Green web site: [www.bomagogreen.com](http://www.bomagogreen.com), provides complete details about the program, key criteria, frequently asked questions, information on how to apply, and complete application materials.

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Canada is comprised of over 2000 members in strong local associations in each major region in Canada, representing over 500 million square feet of office space in Canada. Members include building owners, managers, developers, facilities managers, asset managers, leasing agents and brokers, investors and service providers. BOMA Canada represents the Canadian commercial real estate industry on matters of national concern, promotes excellence in the industry through information, education and recognition, and, in conjunction with BOMA International provides recognized industry standards and research.

For more information, visit the BOMA Canada website at [www.bomacanada.org](http://www.bomacanada.org).

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