



BOMA CANADA RELEASE – July 12th, 2009

BOMA Canada addresses Report on Climate Change

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While the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) recently reported that Canada had earned a failing grade on climate change action, the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Canada is pleased to report on its efforts to improve sustainability within the commercial real estate industry.

A report prepared by Ecofys for the conservation organization WWF and the global insurance firm Allianz SE confirmed that Canada ended up at the bottom of the pack because our greenhouse gas emissions are not only still increasing, but Canada lacks a credible national plan to reduce emissions in the future. “BOMA Canada recognizes the urgency of addressing the issues surrounding climate change and has proactively developed a program to support the industry's desire to manage and maintain properties in a more environmentally conscientious way.” said Diana Osler Zortea, President of BOMA Canada.

BOMA's unique and effective BOMA BEST (Building Environmental Standards) program has been establishing best practices for reducing buildings' environmental impact in myriad concrete ways. First launched nationally by BOMA Canada four years ago, the voluntary program has been embraced by the commercial real estate industry in Canada which recognizes its value in providing the mechanisms for common practices and increased sustainability across the industry.

The Ecofys scorecard highlights the fact that electricity and heating account for 34 per cent of Canada's emissions, the greatest portion overall. “BOMA BEST specifically addresses electricity and heating usage in commercial buildings,” explains Ms. Osler Zortea. “Buildings certified to BOMA BEST Levels 2, 3 or 4 are performing substantially better on several key environmental benchmarks, including using 11% less energy and 18% less water than the industry standard. It is results like these that have encouraged scores of national commercial real estate companies and the federal Public Works Government Services Canada (PWGSC) to adopt BOMA BEST for their entire portfolios of existing buildings,” she added, representing over 322 million square feet of commercial real estate in Canada.

The program is continually being enhanced. Recently, three new categories were added, ensuring that BOMA BEST can provide a consistent and reliable method to evaluate the overall sustainability of buildings across all office, industrial and retail asset classes. Over 1100 buildings across Canada have achieved BOMA BEST certification thus far, proving that this comprehensive program is successful in meeting the needs of the commercial real estate industry. Building owners recognize that obtaining BOMA BEST certification is not just the right thing to do; it also makes a property more attractive to tenants. BOMA BEST has firmly established itself as a practical assessment and guidance tool for environmentally sound building management, as it continues to foster increased consciousness and establish improved environmental objectives as part of strategic asset planning in the commercial real estate industry.

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Canada is the voice of Canada's commercial real estate industry with over 2,900 members in regional associations across Canada. On behalf of the building owners, managers, developers, facilities managers, asset managers, leasing agents, brokers, and the product and service

For more information, visit our website at www.bomacanada.ca



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providers to over 1.9 Billion square feet of commercial real estate in Canada, BOMA Canada addresses issues of national concern, and promotes excellence in the industry through information, education, advocacy, and recognition. Complete details about BOMA BEST, including a list of all certified buildings, are available at www.bomabest.com.

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