

Dear Reader,

The Atlanta Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) aims to serve our region by providing a central resource for green building assistance, educating local professionals in green building practices and encouraging the widespread acceptance of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) building standard. As one of only six USGBC Affiliates, Southface has played an extraordinary role in accomplishing these goals. The fruits of the Atlanta Regional USGBC's affiliation with Southface have been remarkable: Atlanta ranks among the top ten metropolitan areas in the nation for number of LEED registered buildings; Atlanta has one of the largest populations of LEED accredited professionals; and the Atlanta City Council has passed an ordinance that all new City buildings will meet the standards of LEED Silver or better. It's no wonder that Southface will co-host the USGBC's Greenbuild Conference in Atlanta in 2005. Both Southface and USGBC staff and volunteers are already hard at work planning a wonderful event.

As President of the Atlanta Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, I enjoy a unique opportunity to extend the reach of my volunteer leadership role by also serving on the Southface Board of Directors. Southface holds a seat on its board for the USGBC Atlanta Chapter President, demonstrating the collaborative, inclusive spirit that has guided the organization for more than a quarter century.

I am also proud of the friendship between Southface and my employer, Interface. If you have ever toured the Southface Resource Center, you have seen our products put to good use. Our company's name stands among other respected businesses and individuals who contribute annual support. Interface founder, Ray Anderson received Southface's inaugural Argon Award for Success in Sustainability.

Today, Interface and many other product manufacturers are in conversation with Southface about their new Eco Office demonstration facility. We believe our investment in the Southface Eco Office is an opportunity to advance Southface's mission to promote sustainable homes, workplaces and communities, which has always meant environmental and economic benefits for our region.

In this issue of the Southface Journal, you will learn more about new programs and initiatives at Southface and the USGBC. Years ago, the word "sustainability" meant nothing to many of us. You may still be working to understand it. Now, our growing community - design, development and construction professionals, policy makers, educators, manufacturers, corporate leaders and concerned citizens - is poised at an exciting point, building great momentum toward a sustainable future.

If you are not already a member of Southface or the USGBC Atlanta Chapter, I hope you will join us soon on our journey.

George Bandy, Jr.

VP of Government and Institutional Strategy--Interface Flooring Systems, Inc.
Chairman of Atlanta Regional USGBC; Southface Board Member