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Houston and Texas go green in 2015

Texas ranked among the top states in the country for building "green projects," including those in Houston from Memorial City to Rice University.

The U.S. Green Building Council recently released the top 10 state rankings for LEED-certified building activity. Texas ranked No. 8 with nearly 53 million square feet of LEED space in 2015. Data collected in the report shows that this construction will support 244,000 jobs in Texas and has a total impact of \$21 billion on gross domestic product from 2015 to 2018.

In 2015, there were 237 Texas projects that were certified, including the Treehouse at Memorial City, Rice University's Anderson-Clarke Center, Calpine Center, and the Houston Airport System's PN621 Central Control building. Throughout the state, health-care facilities, universities, government buildings and commercial spaces earned the distinction. The ranking is a widely recognized green building rating system.

The ranking analyzes each state in terms of square feet of LEED-certified space per resident. "As these result show, we are in a remarkable position with the building industry in Texas today," said Jonathan Kraatz, executive director of the North Texas Chapter of the council, in a statement. "With five of the top 25 building markets in the country, the adoption of sustainable building and land development practices is gaining a significant foothold across the state."

The top 10 were:

Illinois
Maryland
Massachusetts,
Washington
Colorado
Nevada
California
Texas
Virginia
Utah

In all, 1,633 commercial and institutional projects in these states became LEED-certified in 2015.