Project Description:
Located in Washington, DC near the White House, the National Geographic Society headquarters complex is comprised of four interconnected buildings ranging from 20 to 100 years of age. Continuing its tradition of environmental discovery and achievement, the Society’s management wanted to incorporate the relatively new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), into its renovation plans. Thus, National Geographic Society headquarters became one of the first 60 projects selected to participate in the USGBC 2002 pilot program for existing buildings (LEED–EB).

Green Features:
Energy and atmosphere upgrades involved replacement of chillers, boilers and air handling systems, installation of variable-speed drives, window film and energy efficient lighting, and upgrades to premium-efficiency motors and digital direct controls. Equipment operation time was fine-tuned, allowing as much as 15 minutes to be shaved off scheduled start and stop times of certain equipment. An energy management paging system helps maintain efficiency by monitoring critical equipment, temperature and humidity limits throughout the facilities.

Sustainable site efforts included white roof replacement, increased bike rack capacity and reduced exterior light pollution. Water conservation measures included efficient flush valves, low-flow faucet aerators and controls, and irrigation system rain gauge controls. Indoor air quality projects included asbestos abatement, ventilation and exhaust airflow verification, and upgraded building management system controls for CO2 monitoring and improved temperature and humidity control.