Living Building Challenge defines the highest possible level of environmental performance, envisioning a built environment that is fully integrated with its ecosystem. It pushes the building industry to re-imagine business as usual, and it transforms building occupants from passive consumers into active stewards of increasingly scarce resources.

Launched in November 2006, the Living Building Challenge has proven itself to be hugely transformative. The Challenge inspires green building teams to substantially transform their projects and innovate new techniques, while demonstrating that built and natural ecosystems can thrive in partnership with each other now, using current technology.

To be “Living” the building must achieve each of the Challenge’s ‘Imperatives’: it must generate all of its own energy onsite using renewable sources; capture and treat all of its own water; be constructed of nontoxic, sustainably sourced materials; use only previously developed sites (reducing sprawl); and be beautiful and inspiring to its inhabitants.

This single unifying standard is spurring comprehensive change within the built environment and the design and construction world, while giving end-users and policy makers a clear path toward true sustainability. With larger and more complex projects now underway and a grassroots international community of supporters and advanced practitioners growing each day, the Challenge is scaling up rapidly.