



Wilson of CBRE speaks at annual Long Island market forecast about global warming

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Though many new LEED-certified office developments have received attention in the media, most of the country's commercial building stock is comprised of older, less-environmentally friendly properties. These buildings constitute nearly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.â€”more than the 33% emitted by automobilesâ€”making them the number one cause of global warming. How the commercial real estate industry tackles this issue and the steps it must take to combat global warming, were some of the subjects discussed by Sally Wilson, global director of environmental strategy for CB Richard Ellis, at the firm's annual Long Island market forecast.

Wilson, the first LEED-certified commercial real estate broker in the country, focused on several actions the real estate industry can take to combat the affects of global warming over the next 20 years. These included taking a stronger leadership role in the way buildings are developed and managed and the need for brokers and owners to rethink how to best retrofit existing structures to meet sustainable guidelines.

Wilson emphasized that by building "green" the industry can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30%.

Furthermore, she talked about the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED committee, which has been responsible for setting the sustainable guidelines for commercial, residential, and interior, and is now looking to set new standards for industrial properties.

In closing, Wilson re-emphasized how the commercial industry is now in the ideal position to show social responsibility and bring lasting changes that translate to sustainable buildings and a better environment for generations to come.

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