

George Benda

Advancing energy efficiency and environmental sustainability has been the focus of George Benda's career. Benda is chairman and CEO of Chelsea Group, Ltd. (Honolulu, Chicago, and Phoenix), an international building sciences consultancy whose work includes energy conservation for commercial and institutional properties as well as LEED certification support.

Before founding Chelsea Group, Benda served as president and CEO of HEC Energy Corporation (Boston). He developed, implemented and managed over \$50 million of performance-based energy conservation programs, including diagnostics, engineering design, construction and financing at such prestigious institutions as the University of Chicago and its Hospitals, Harvard, Yale, MIT, and other institutions throughout the Eastern U.S., such as the Charleston Area Medical Center in W. Va., and Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Ill.

Prior to that, Benda created the first incarnation of Chelsea Group, headquartered in Springfield, Ill., as an energy consulting firm specializing in innovative approaches to energy conservation and new solid fuels technology. There he developed an executive outreach program in energy conservation for the American Hospital Association; he also helped develop, at the Institute of Gas Technology, a fluidized bed coal gasification technology for converting high-sulfur coal to medium-BTU synthetic gas.

Benda began his career in various energy-related positions with the State of Illinois, culminating in service as the state's Director of Energy Programs. There, among other things, he managed the state's energy conservation and development programs; designed coal technology development policy and programs; oversaw approximately \$50 million of state investment in coal gasification, fluidized bed combustion, and advances in flue-gas scrubber technology projects; and oversaw some \$5 million in state investment in joint-venture solar, wind and alternate fuels technology projects.

Among Chelsea Group's recent projects are the forensic analysis of contamination of the Louisiana State University Medical Center and other buildings in New Orleans following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the recovery of over 40 buildings damaged in a flash flood at the University of Hawaii. Benda oversaw an indoor environmental quality review and the construction sequence planning as part of New York City's World Trade Center VII project team to help obtain LEED certification, and Morgan Stanley has tapped him to conduct property condition assessments related to indoor environmental conditions and mechanical systems in its acquisitions around the nation. Chelsea Group has recently contracted with CB Richard Ellis and A&B Properties to improve the environmental sustainability of numerous properties, nationally and globally.

Benda has developed and licensed the INvironment® Institute to provide classroom and online training in indoor air quality and building sciences. He has invented several patented and patent-pending enhancements to indoor air quality (IAQ) sensor technology and air cleaning devices. He has also written books and articles on various building science topics.

Past Chairman of the Board of the Certification of Indoor Air Quality Professionals (CIAQP) at the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), Benda was named the Region V Energy Professional of the Year by AEE in 2005. AEE honored him as Environmental Educator of the Year in 1996. An active member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), he also serves on the board of directors of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Hawaii. He has served on the board of directors of the Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA) and as Chair of the IAQA Research Committee.

Benda is a founding partner and former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Aka'ula School, an innovative middle school on the island of Molokai, Hawaii (where he resides), with an environmentally oriented curriculum. He is also a former board member of the Ke Aupuni Lokahi, overseeing the USDA Enterprise Community (EC) program on Molokai. A graduate of Rockford College (Ill.), he earned his master's degree from the University of Chicago.