



One of NFRC's newest members, Katterra is a new kind of company in the building industry, delivering a comprehensive suite of products and services for its clients. As part of this model, Katterra integrates new technologies with its windows that are built to complement a building's energy-efficiency profile. The company, headquartered in California with a global footprint, designs and manufactures standard window and door products for residential and commercial projects including sliding, casement, and picture windows, as well as sliding patio doors. With all the "smart building" technologies in the market today, Katterra creates its own components to be more efficient and interact with its suite of products.

One of the company's goals is to avoid the schedule disruptions that windows have historically caused for building projects. They have been able to reduce manufacturing lead times with their standardized designs, smart engineering, advanced manufacturing, and supply-chain relationships.

Kevin Vilhauer, a former NFRC board of director, is an integration engineer and focuses on integrating the latest in energy-efficient technologies into Katterra's products that effect a building's wholistic performance. Going beyond windows, Vilhauer promotes big picture thinking: How windows influence other types of design decisions including HVAC systems and lighting. Windows are critical in balancing the cost of performance, he said.

"When I first started attending NFRC, I didn't realize the opportunities available for me," Vilhauer said. "I thought that we just wrote the standards, and I didn't think about the bigger opportunity for leadership development and connecting with other people in the industry to learn beyond the technical aspects."

NFRC sat down with Vilhauer to learn more about Katterra and its involvement with NFRC.

What impact has NFRC made on your company?

As a fully integrated company that provides comprehensive building services, we build many of our own components including windows. We rely on window thermal performance for our buildings to meet energy code and customer requirements. When looking at building energy performance, it is important to balance performance with cost. Using thermal values from the NFRC certifications allows us to simulate various combinations of glazing options in our building energy models to achieve the best balance of performance and cost.

What about your company are you most proud of?

Katterra takes an integrated approach to product innovation to deliver high-quality products at a great value. For example, our windows are high performing designs that allow us to reliably meet the building performance requirements with many options to meet or exceed the most stringent energy requirements. By leveraging overall building efficiencies, we can deliver cost-effective solutions.

Does your company participate in community service programs?

We're proud to be active members of the communities where we work. We participate in a range of community service activities, such as supporting local food banks and other nonprofits such as "The BLOCK Project" for both design and construction of small houses for the homeless. Our Scottsdale employees recently held a fundraiser for a local nonprofit that provides employment resources for people experiencing homelessness.

Is your organization implementing sustainability practices?

Sustainability is integrated into the core of our business. Our goal is to deliver improved environmental performance and a reduced carbon footprint without adding costs. Our building platform design and manufacturing processes are more sustainable than site-built buildings. We manufacture many of the components in manufacturing plants so that there is higher efficiency and less waste by using the latest technology and automation. We also produce cross laminated timber (CLT) from our Spokane Valley, Washington manufacturing facility for floor, wall, and roof assemblies. CLT uses less carbon than alternatives and contains high efficiency lumber from a technology that scans and sorts the lumber stock.

Are there any projects (completed or in design) that you would like to share?

In Spokane, we are constructing the [Catalyst Building](#), the state's first cross-laminated timber (CLT) office building. At 159,000 square feet, the Catalyst aims to be one of the largest net zero energy and one of the first net zero carbon buildings in North America, certified by the International Living Future Institute.

Last year we completed the [K90 building project](#), which demonstrated Katerra's mission to deliver high-quality buildings more quickly and efficiently. As a part of a larger multifamily development project under way in Las Vegas, Katerra developed a project with the goal to shorten the typical construction time of a 24-unit garden-style building from foundation to finish to 90 days. Using a combination of manufacturing, technology tools, and innovative products and processes, Katerra shortened by the construction schedule by 40%.



What else about your company do you want people to know about?

Katerra is transforming construction through technology - every process and every product. As a full-service partner for developers, architects, general contractors, and sub-contractors, Katerra can provide every product and service needed to deliver the highest quality building projects. We are focused on optimizing building structures and systems, creating beautiful interior spaces and developing smarter building operations.

How can NFRC better serve your company needs?

It is important for Katterra that NFRC continue to explore new ways to streamline the certification process. It is also critical that NFRC monitor the latest window and door technology in order to allow for manufacturers to provide certification for those innovations.