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Certification News

"Florida Green" Homes
4,104 as of 11/30/11

Local Governments:

City of Dunedin
Upgrade
Level: Gold

FHFC Universal Application Cycle Closes Dec 6

Applicants interested in applying for funding for the construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing through the following programs can do so through the Universal Application Cycle, but hurry, closing deadline is December 6, 2011.

- Housing Credits
- Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bonds
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program

The 2011 allocation authority has been revised to approximately \$60,000,000. [[More](#)]

HUD Announces Income Limits for 2012

HUD has posted to its website the fiscal year 2012 income limits for IRS's Multifamily Tax Subsidy Programs (MTSP) -- Low Income Housing Credit (HC), Tax Credit Exchange Program (TCEP), and Tax Exempt Bond (MMRB). MTSP income limits are also used by the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) and Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP). HUD also published income limits for its Section 8 program; these limits are used by the State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP). The effective date of these limits is 12/1/2011.

HC, MMRB, SAIL, TCEP, TCAP, RRLP, CWHIP, AHL: ([MTSP](#)) SHIP: ([Section 8](#))

HUD has NOT yet published income limits and rent limits for its HOME program nor has FDIC provided income limits and rent limits for its Affordable Housing Program.

ASHRAE Releases 'Advanced Energy Design Guide'

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) released its "Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings" to offer best practices for architects, design engineers, energy modelers,

Points: 47
Tied for highest score
with Sarasota County.

Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

[Linkedin Group](#)

[Facebook Blog](#)

Calendar

January 26-27, 2012
MiaGreen Conference
Miami Beach Convention
Center
Miami, FL
www.MiaGreen.com

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Articles of Interest

New Home Sales Inch Up in October

New single-family home sales inched up 1.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 307,000 units in October.
[\[More\]](#) [\[Press Release\]](#)

Former Gov. Graham Urges Scott to Provide Environmental Leadership

Bob Graham says, "We need strong gubernatorial leadership to reverse the damage that's been done and avoid future damage."
[\[More\]](#)

**FGBC Committee
Meetings**

general contractors, facility managers and building operations staff. Developed in concert with the Department of Energy and three Alliance Associates - the U.S. Green Building Council, the Illuminating Engineering Society and the American Institute of Architects - the school guide is the second in a series of guides on achieving 50% energy savings in various building types. These recommendations go further than the minimum code requirements of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2004 [[More](#)] [[View the Guide](#)]

Meeting 2010 Code Could Reduce Energy Use 18.5%

DOE indicates that buildings meeting the 2010 energy efficiency standard will use 18.5 percent less energy than structures using the previous (2007) standard. The latest version of Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings, Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, will save commercial building owners energy and money, according to DOE's analysis. It will also help them meet their sustainability goals and reduce carbon pollution.

When DOE issues a final determination, states are expected to review the new code provisions and update their building code to meet or exceed the energy efficiency of the new standard within two years. Certification statements by the states are due October 18, 2013.

The DOE noted that the newer version of the standard contains 19 positive impacts on energy efficiency. Among the modifications are new requirements for daylighting controls under skylights and commissioning of daylighting controls; increased use of heat recovery; cool roofs in hot climates; skylights and daylighting in some building types; reduced ventilation energy; supply air temperature reset for non-peak conditions; efficiency requirements for data centers; lower lighting power densities; control of exterior lighting; and occupancy sensors for many specific applications.

DOE Funds \$7 Million for Solar "Soft Costs"

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a funding initiative of up to \$7 million, as part of the SunShot Incubator Program, to reduce the non-hardware costs of residential and commercial solar energy installations. This funding will support the development of tools and approaches that reduce non-hardware, or "soft" costs, such as installation, permitting, interconnection, and inspection. These expenses can amount to up to half of the cost of residential systems. The Incubator will make the process of buying, installing, and maintaining solar energy systems faster, easier, and less expensive.

Affordable Housing

3rd Thursday-monthly
10 a.m.

Board of Directors

2nd Wednesday-monthly
3 p.m.

Commercial

1st Tuesday-monthly
3 p.m.

Education

1st Thursday-monthly
2 p.m.

Hi-Rise Residential

3rd Tuesday-monthly
11 a.m.

Homes

2nd Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

4th Wednesday-monthly
4 p.m.

Local Government

1st Tuesday-monthly
10:30 a.m.

Membership Committee

3rd Thursday-monthly
1 p.m.

Programs & Promotions

3rd Thursday-monthly
1 p.m.

DOE Funding Programs

DOE has wide range of funding programs available for renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.

Check out these websites for eligibility and details:

Funding will be awarded in two tiers:

- Tier 1 includes awards up to \$500,000 with a 20% cost share over 12 months to accelerate the development of innovative non-hardware concepts. DOE may issue approximately 3-5 awards in this category.
- Tier 2 includes awards up to \$5 million with a 50% cost share over 18 months to transition innovative systems and solutions to the demonstration stage and eventually to full-scale deployment. DOE may issue approximately 1-3 awards in this category.

A primary objective of the SunShot Incubator Program is to launch new start-up businesses and new business units within existing commercial entities. Concept paper applications are due by January 16, 2012. [\[More\]](#)

Broward County Receives Solar Project Funding

Broward County has received \$646,367 in funding as part of the U.S. Department of Energy Sunshot Rooftop Solar Challenge. The Sunshot initiative is intended to spur solar power deployment by cutting red tape-streamlining and standardizing permitting, zoning, metering, and connection processes-and improving finance options to reduce barriers and lower costs for residential and small commercial rooftop solar systems.

Broward County will remove local ordinances that create barriers to solar installations and will educate community associations about their obligations under Florida law. The project will also create a unified online system for permitting and interconnection to reduce costs and wait time.

New Lighting Standards Effective January 2012

Ever since Congress passed efficiency requirements for light bulbs in 2007, improved light bulbs have been showing up on retailers' shelves. For customers, these bulbs hold the key to reducing electricity bills. But what is the law behind these changes? The top 4 things you need to know about the new lighting standards are:

1. The lighting standards are part of a bill passed in 2007.
2. EISA does not ban incandescent bulbs, nor does it

[Loan Programs](#)

[Geothermal](#)

[Solar](#)

[Wind & Water](#)

- require you to purchase CFLs.
3. The lighting standards require light bulbs to use about 30% less electricity than today's average bulb by 2012.
 4. Increased efficiency phases in over the next two years.

The new standards will affect the most inefficient old bulbs starting in 2012. Over the next two years, the standards will incrementally decrease the maximum watts that bulbs are allowed to burn - affecting nearly all traditional incandescent bulbs by 2014. [[More](#)]

Current Watts	Maximum Watts Allowed	Effective Date	Lumen Range
100	72	January 2012	1490 - 2600
75	53	January 2013	1050 - 1489
60	43	January 2014	750 - 1049
40	29	January 2014	310 - 749

DOE and EPA Release 2012 Fuel Economy Guide

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are releasing the 2012 Fuel Economy Guide, providing consumers with information that can help them choose a more efficient new vehicle that saves them money and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The website: www.fueleconomy.gov allows consumers to compare vehicles side-by-side and see not just fuel costs but overall operating costs by vehicle model. The Mitsubishi i-MiEV ranked #1 in fuel efficiency at 126/99 mpg city/highway.

ACEEE Releases Energy Efficiency Planning Tool for Communities

ACEEE has released a new user-oriented tool to assist local policymakers and stakeholders in advancing appropriate energy efficiency policies within their community. The Local Energy Efficiency Policy Calculator (LEEP-C) allows users to enter characteristics about their community, learn about and customize policy options, draw on a database of energy and economic data, and compare the estimated impacts of different policy choices across time. Outputs include energy savings, cost savings, pollution reduction, net jobs, and others. Currently the tool includes policies focused on two economic sectors: existing public buildings and existing residential buildings.

While LEEP-C is primarily designed to analyze local policy

options, it is also applicable to issues of interest to state, regional, and national policymakers and stakeholders. It is the newest addition to a suite of resources developed by ACEEE aimed at providing technical assistance to states and communities, including our state policy database, local policy case studies, and state and local technical assistance toolkits.

Links:

[Calculator](#)

[State Policy Database](#)

[Local Policy Case Studies](#)

[Energy Efficiency Potential Toolkit](#)