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Articles of Interest

FGBC In The News:

North Port Gets High Marks for Going Green.
[\[More\]](#)

Miami-Dade and Osceola Counties Earn Certification

Miami-Dade County has earned the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) gold-level Green Local Government certification with a score of 57 percent - the highest score attained to date by any of the 42 FGBC certified governments.

Osceola County also received certification this month with a score of 37 percent, for a silver-level rating.

Congratulations to each of these counties for outstanding demonstrations of sustainability. More details on their specific green achievements will soon be available on the FGBC website: www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org.

Study Finds 'Green Label' Adds Value In Housing Market

Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, Los Angeles released a new study on the economic value of green home labels in the California residential marketplace. "The Value of Green Labels in the California Housing Market" is the first rigorous, large-scale independent economic analysis of the value of green home labels in California.

Led by researchers Nils Kok, visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and Matthew Kahn, professor at the Institute of the Environment, Department of Public Policy and Department of Economics at the University of California, Los Angeles, the study examined data on the 1.6 million single-family homes sold between 2007 and 2012 in California. Of these homes, approximately 4,300 were certified with green home labels from Energy Star, GreenPoint Rated or LEED for Homes.

Key findings of "The Value of Green Labels in the California Housing Market":

- A green home label adds an average 9 percent price premium for single-family homes in California.

Southern Crafted Homes Offers Low-Maintenance Villas
[\[More\]](#)

Quick Links

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Certification News

Local Government

Miami-Dade County

Certified: 10/11/12
Score: 57%
Level: Gold
Version: 3

Osceola County

Certified: 10/5/12
Score: 31%
Level: Silver
Version: 4

Palm Beach County

Certified: 9/4/12
Score: 42%
Level: Silver
Version: 4

Certifications to Date

"Florida Green" Certifications To Date

Homes

1,240 Homes in 2012
5,241 total as of 10/5/12

Commercial Buildings

Registered: 15
Certified: 7

Hi-Rise

Registered: 4
Certified: 1

Land Development

Registered: 61
Certified: 16

Local Government

Registered: 56
Certified: 42

Multi-Family

In 2012
26 Buildings
302 Units

- Based on the average California home price of \$400,000, homes with a green label sell for an average of \$34,800 more than comparable homes without a green label.

This study yields two key insights into the effect of green labels on property values:

1. The price premium associated with a green label varies considerably from region to region in California, and is highest in the areas with hotter climates. This may indicate that residents in these areas value green labels more due to the increased cost of keeping a home cool.

2. The premium is also positively correlated to the environmental ideology of the area, as measured by the rate of registration of hybrid vehicles. This correlation suggests that some homeowners attribute value to intangible qualities associated with owning a green home. [\[More\]](#)

New Statute to Enfore Fertilizing Methods

Beginning January 1, 2014, any person applying fertilizers "for-hire" to an urban landscape must have a license from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

This is due in part to encourage safer practices when applying fertilizer. This law was put into place because of water quality issues that are due to non-point source pollution, like fertilizer and pesticide run off.

The law applies to all commercial fertilizer applicators making any type of fertilizer application to commercial turf or ornamental areas; and/or the turf or ornamental areas of parks or fields (other than agricultural areas) and/or turf or ornamental area of any residential property. Prior to issuance of this certification, the applicator must provide proof of having received training in "Green Industry Best Management Practices." These classes are offered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the University of Florida, IFAS. [\[More\]](#)

Natural Gas Refueling Stations is Model for Communities

Nopetro on September 25 opened a natural gas vehicle refueling facility in Tallahassee, Fla. The facility - the largest and most expansive CNG fueling operation on the East Coast of the United States - is the product of an innovative partnership between the public and private sectors. The Leon County School District is transforming its entire fleet of diesel-powered school buses to CNG, and other public and private consumers may also fuel their CNG vehicles at the station. A portion of each sale will benefit the school district thanks to the partnership with Nopetro.

**Florida Water Star
Certifications**
NFWFMD and SRWMD
Areas
2 Homes in 2012

Education Opportunities

**December 7, 2012
Certifying Agent
Annual Active Status
Verification Course**
Gainesville, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

**April 24-25, 2013
FGBC Certifying Agent
Designation Course**
Florida Solar Energy
Center
Cocoa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

**August 21-22, 2013
FGBC Certifying Agent
Designation Course**
Florida Solar Energy
Center
Cocoa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

Calendar of Events

**Oct. 21-25, 2012
NCAF Energy
Leveraging and
Community Economic
Development
Conference**
Renaissance Vinoy
St. Petersburg, FL
[Register](#)

**Oct. 30, 2012
Sustainable
Communities - One
Day 7th Annual
Workshop**
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast
Florida Event and
Conference Center
Sarasota, FL
[Register](#)

**Nov. 1-3, 2012
FHBA Fall Conference**
Renaissance Vinoy
St. Petersburg, FL
[Register](#)

**Nov. 14-16, 2012
USGBC -GreenBuild
Int'l Conference and
Expo**
Moscone Center

The company, which has offices in Miami and Tallahassee, says it plans a network of 16 refueling stations in Florida and another three in Georgia.

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam said a planned network of natural gas refueling stations could help overcome the "chicken-or-the-egg" dilemma for alternative-fueled vehicles.

Porter Chandler Gives 'Green' A New Value



Builder Porter Chandler (L) poses with Joann Suggs from the American Cancer Society in front of the Tallahassee Homes Realty sales model in Bull Run subdivision on the northeast side of Tallahassee, Fla. The home, located at 2640 Manassas Way, is a "Florida Green" certified home by the Florida

Green Building Coalition and touts its new pink color during October in support of breast cancer awareness. Porter lost his mother to breast cancer.

Get \$250K for a Green Building Idea

International real estate services firm the CBRE Group is offering a share of up to \$1 million of its cash for new sustainable building and construction technology ideas. At the Climate Group's Climate Week in New York City in September, CBRE announced the launch of the Real Green Research Challenge, a four year \$1 million program to fund research into new green building technology and innovation relating to commercial real estate. The firm says it is accepting submissions for research proposals that offer development solutions to meet the industry's environmental challenges.
[\[More\]](#)

Renewable Energy Power Agreement Reached By Rayonier and Florida Public Utilities Company

A renewable energy agreement between Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC and the Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC) was approved by the Florida Public Service Commission in July. Under the terms of the 10-year agreement, Rayonier will sell FPUC excess energy generated by a 22.5 mega-watt turbine generator recently installed at its Fernandina, Fla. mill. Seven years after investing nearly \$30 million in a biomass-fired power boiler at Fernandina, Rayonier installed the new turbine generator at a cost of roughly \$25 million. Florida Department of Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, whose agency houses the

San Francisco, CA
[Register](#)

Join Our List

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FGBC Committee
Meetings

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
2 p.m.

Hi-Rise
3rd Tuesday Monthly
11 a.m.

Homes
2nd Tuesday Monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development
4th Wednesday
Quarterly
4 p.m.

Local Government
1st Tuesday Monthly
10:30 a.m.

**Membership and
Programs &
Promotions Joint Mtg**
3rd Thursday Monthly
4 p.m.

State's Office of Energy, said, "One of the mandates of my agency is to foster innovation in energy development while cost-effectively diversifying our energy portfolio, and this contract does exactly that. It means FPUC will now be able to offer electricity from a renewable energy source, enhance system reliability, and save customers over \$1.2 million. I applaud Rayonier and FPUC for providing multiple benefits to ratepayers as a result of this agreement." [\[More\]](#)

Study Compares U.S. and German Solar Soft Costs

The wide disparity between the price of residential photovoltaic (PV) systems in Germany and the United States can be attributed primarily to differences in the non-hardware, or soft costs, associated with solar energy system installations. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) fielded a survey of German PV installers to collect granular data on the various soft cost elements for residential PV in Germany to better characterize the nature of these differences.

German installers reported average soft costs of \$0.62 per watt (W) in 2011, which is roughly \$2.70/W lower than the average soft costs reported by U.S. installers. LBNL researchers compared additional cost contributors, such as customer acquisition, labor, and permitting, interconnection, and inspection, for host-customer-owned systems installed in Germany in 2011 and in the United States in 2010.

The complete analysis titled "Why Are Residential PV Prices in Germany So Much Lower Than in the United States? A Scoping Analysis," is publicly available for review. The research team emphasizes that the effort serves as a preliminary scoping analysis, highlighting specific areas where further research could reveal additional insights and opportunities to drive cost reductions within the United States. [\[More\]](#) [\[Report\]](#)

Declining Foreclosure Inventory Signals Housing Recovery

CoreLogic®, a leading provider of information, analytics and business services, recently released its National Foreclosure Report for August that provides monthly data on completed U.S. foreclosures and the overall foreclosure inventory. According to the report, there were 57,000 completed foreclosures in the U.S. in August 2012, down from 75,000 in August 2011 and 58,000* in July 2012. Completed foreclosures are an indication of the total number of homes actually lost to foreclosure.

"The continuing downward trend in foreclosures and a gradual clearing of the shadow inventory are important signals that the recovery in housing is gaining traction," said Anand Nallathambi, president and CEO of CoreLogic.

Highlights as of August 2012:

* The five states with the highest number of completed foreclosures for the 12 months ending in August 2012 were: California (110,000), Florida (92,000), Michigan (62,000), Texas (58,000) and Georgia (55,000). These five states account for 48.1 percent of all completed foreclosures nationally.

* The five states with the highest foreclosure inventory as a percentage of all mortgaged homes were: Florida (11.0 percent), New Jersey (6.5 percent), New York (5.2 percent), Illinois (4.8 percent) and Nevada (4.6 percent).

DEP Names Finalists in the Green School Awards

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Environmental Education has named 16 finalists for the 2011-2012 Florida Green School Awards program. Three finalists from K-12 public and private schools statewide have been selected in each of the five categories: students, classrooms, teachers, schools and school districts that have implemented resource-saving projects. One state winner within each category will be announced at the Florida Green Schools Awards Ceremony and Banquet scheduled for Oct. 18, 2012. This year, the awards banquet will take place at the West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel.

The finalists for the 2011-2012 Florida Green School Awards include:

Student Finalists

- Lisa Paniale, Audubon Elementary School, Brevard County
- Laurie Mecca (P. J. OWL Team), Pine Jog Elementary, Palm Beach County
- Wayne Oelfke, Ft. White High School, Columbia County

Class Finalists

- Bridget Cleary, Learning Gate Community School, Hillsborough County
- Deborah Pate, A.K. Suter Elementary School, Escambia County
- Hector Escobedo, TERRA Environmental Research Institute, Miami-Dade County
- Neil Gleitz, Pine View School, Sarasota County

Teacher Finalists

- Alexis Salcedo, TERRA Environmental Research Institute, Miami-Dade County
- Sharon Cutler, Lawton Chiles Elementary School, Hillsborough County
- Wendy Doromal, Timber Creek High School, Orange County

School Finalists

- Driftwood Middle School AHW, Broward County
- Sandalwood High School, Duval County
- Spring Valley School, Pinellas County

School District Finalists

- Duval County School District
- Leon County School District
- Polk County School District

DOE Offers Online Photovoltaic Training

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is offering a free online training program for building and electrical code officials who perform inspections for residential photovoltaic (PV) solar energy installations. While this online training program is geared to code officials, it is also appropriate for solar installers, architects, students, and consumers who are interested in this growing field. The training program curriculum complies with current National Electrical Code requirements, which are referenced along with additional industry standards throughout the modules.

The Photovoltaic Online Training (PVOT) program includes seven online modules, providing lessons in subjects such as roof and ground mounted PV arrays, electrical requirements, equipment ratings, and expedited permitting. The first six lessons contain sequential material that includes onscreen text, video, and voice-over narration. The final module provides a virtual walk along a roofline, similar to what an inspector sees in a real-world situation. The PVOT program tracks each participant's progress and test scores, and meets professional licensing requirements for ongoing education in most cities and states. [[More](#)]