

January 15, 2013

## In This Issue

[Articles of Interest:  
The Need for Energy  
Transparency in the  
Multi-Family Market](#)

[Home Improvement  
Tax Credits Reinstated](#)

[2012 National Green  
Building Standard  
Approved](#)

[Changes in Growth  
Management Laws  
Give Local  
Governments More  
Control](#)

[Sustainable  
Communities Cited As  
Core For Growing  
Florida's Business  
Climate](#)

[Declining U.S.  
Foreclosure Rate  
Positive Sign But  
Florida Still Ranks #2  
in Highest Counts](#)

[Congratulations to  
Jeremy Nelson and  
Family!](#)

[FGBC Welcomes New  
Members & Certifying  
Agents](#)

## Articles of Interest

### FGBC in the News:

**Wellington Earns  
Green Local  
Government  
Certification**  
[\[More\]](#)

### In Other News:

**Florida to Receive \$10  
Million for  
Environmental  
Recovery Projects**

**On January 22, 2013, the Florida Green Building Coalition has some very exciting news to share with you. Stay tuned!**

## Home Improvement Tax Credits Reinstated

Federal tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements are back. Reinstatement of the popular credits was a little-noticed part of the American Taxpayer Relief Act, the last-minute legislation that kept America from tumbling over the fiscal cliff at the start of the year.

The law allows homeowners to claim tax credits of varying amounts on improvements such as insulation, energy-smart windows and highly efficient HVAC systems. The law also contains incentives for appliance manufacturers to produce efficient clothes washers, dishwashers and refrigerators, and for home builders to construct energy-efficient homes.

And there's more good news: Congress made those credits retroactive, meaning improvements made in both 2012 and 2013 will qualify. The legislation essentially turns back the clock to 2011, when the last batch of credits was in force. It erased the old expiration date on those credits and set a new deadline of Dec. 31, 2013.

The program still has a cap of \$500 in total credits. That limit goes all the way back to 2006, when the very first credits became available. That means if you've already claimed \$500 in credits for energy-efficiency improvements, you're not eligible for more.

Specifically, these credits are available:

- 10 percent of the cost of insulation materials and systems, not including installation.
- 10 percent of the cost of qualifying exterior doors, windows and skylights, not including installation. (Credits for windows and skylights are capped at \$200.)
- 10 percent of the cost of metal and asphalt roofs specially designed to keep buildings cooler, not including installation.
- \$150 for a natural gas, propane or oil furnace or hot water boiler with an annual fuel utilization efficiency

[\[More\]](#)

**2013 Fuel Economy Guide**

[\[More\]](#)

**Why Green Labels Boost Real Estate Values**

[\[More\]](#)

**The Need for Energy Transparency in the Multi-Family Market**

[\[More\]](#)

**Greencastle of Bayonet Point in Pasco County First Apartment Complex Certified Under the Florida Water Star Community Standard**

[\[More\]](#)

**Quick Links**

[Join FGBC](#)

[Linkedin Group](#)

[Facebook Blog](#)

**Certification Counts**

**"Florida Green" Certifications To Date**

**Homes**

1,345 Homes in 2012  
5,446 total as of  
12/31/12

**Commercial Buildings**

Registered: 17  
Certified: 7

**Hi-Rise**

Registered: 4  
Certified: 1

**Land Development**

Registered: 61  
Certified: 12

**Local Government**

Registered: 56  
Certified: 44

**Multi-Family**

In 2012  
26 Buildings  
302 Units

**Florida Water Star**

rate (AFUE) of 95 percent or greater.

- \$300 for an electric heat pump water heater with an energy factor of at least 2.0.
- \$300 for a highly efficient electric heat pump.
- \$300 for a highly efficient central air conditioner.
- \$300 for a natural gas, propane or oil water heater with an energy factor of at least 0.82 or a thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent.
- \$300 for a biomass stove.

The improvements must be made to the taxpayer's principal residence and must be placed in service by the end of 2013. To claim a tax credit, you'll need to file Form 5695 along with your federal income tax return for the year the improvement is made. The credit will be subtracted from the amount of tax you owe or added to your tax refund. Before you file, you're required to get a manufacturer's certification statement, a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying the product qualifies for a tax credit. [\[More\]](#) [\[Form 5695\]](#)

**2012 National Green Building Standard Approved**

On January 11, 2013, the National Association of Home Builders announced the approval of a revised version of the ICC 700 National Green Building Standard by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The new version of the standard includes several important changes including:

- **Energy Code Update:** While the original ICC 700 used the 2006 version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as a basis, the new version will use the 2009 IECC. The requirements of the 2009 IECC are estimated to result in energy efficient performance that is about 15 percent higher than the previous 2006 code.
- **Restructured Scoring for Remodeling:** The new version completely revamped the scoring for renovations and remodeling projects. The revised standard includes two entirely new chapters devoted to existing building projects. The first provides criteria for entire buildings and includes requirements for improved energy and water efficiency that increases as higher levels of compliance are sought. The second provides a green protocol for the most common renovation and addition projects that focus on functional areas of a home such as a kitchen, bathroom, basement, or addition under 400 square feet.
- **Incentives for Development and Lot Design:** The 2012 ICC 700 includes the addition of a new scoring opportunity for those choosing to build on lots in green communities. In the new version, six points can be earned in the Lot Design, Preparation and Development chapter for choosing lots in developments that have been certified to ICC 700 or an equivalent program. In the previous version of the

**Certifications**  
**NFWFMD and SRWMD**  
**Areas**

3 Homes in 2012

**Education**  
**Opportunities**

**January 15-17, 2013**  
**Train the Trainer**  
How to Design & Deliver  
Effective Training  
Gainesville, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**March 28, 2013**  
**FGBC Certifying Agent**  
**Annual Verification**  
**Course**  
Tallahassee, FL  
[\[Register\]](#)

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

**June 6, 2013**  
**FGBC Certifying Agent**  
**Annual Verification**  
**Course**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
[\[Register\]](#)

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

**August 23, 2013**  
**FGBC Certifying Agent**  
**Annual Verification**  
**Course**  
Sarasota, FL  
(In conjunction with  
GreenTrends)  
[\[Register\]](#)

**November 15, 2013**  
**FGBC Certifying Agent**  
**Annual Verification**  
**Course**  
Gainesville, FL  
[\[Register\]](#)

**Calendar of Events**

**Jan. 22-24, 2013**  
**International Builders**  
**Show**  
Las Vegas, NV  
[\[More\]](#)

standard no such incentives were provided.  
Based on the ANSI approval of the 2012 NGBS, the following  
dates are now set:

- May 1, 2013 = Registration Deadline for 2008 NGBS Certified Projects
- August 1, 2014 = Completion deadline for single-family homes registered for 2008 NGBS certification
- February 1, 2016 = Completion deadline for multifamily buildings registered for 2008 NGBS certification

[\[More\]](#)

**Changes in Growth Management Laws**  
**Give Local Governments More Control**

The Legislature in 2011 passed sweeping changes that substantially reduced state oversight of local land-use decisions. The Legislature also eliminated the Florida Department of Community Affairs and moved its planners into the new Department of Economic Opportunity.

State planners say that since state growth management law changes passed in 2011, they have been working to mediate disputes between agencies and local government rather than filing legal challenges to local actions.

Since those 2011 law changes, 90 percent of all local government comprehensive plan amendments now receive expedited review, said Tom Beck, director of DEO's Division of Community Development. Comments by other state agencies, he said, are restricted to whether resources of state significance are affected.

"Local planning issues are now entirely addressed by local governments," Beck told the Senate Committee on Community Affairs. "The state government has gotten out of local issues."

Also, 24 local governments have rescinded requirements that schools and roads be built in step with new homes and businesses and that parks be set aside. Jacksonville along with Pasco and Alachua counties have adopted new "mobility fees" that some planners say provide more flexibility in traffic planning.

An expanded "sector planning" process for developments over 15,000 acres led to approval of three in Osceola, Hendry and Nassau counties totaling more than 70,000 acres, Beck said. The department expects next year that other sector plans in Alachua, Hendry and Lake counties will be submitted for

**January 25-26, 2013**

**Go Solar Fest**

Broward County  
Convention center  
Fort Lauderdale

[\[More\]](#)

**Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2013**

**MiaGreen Expo**

Miami Beach Convention  
Center  
Miami Beach, FL

[\[Register\]](#)

**Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2013**

**RESNET Building**

**Performance  
Conference**

Orlando World Marriott  
Center  
Orlando, FL

[\[Register\]](#)

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

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  
Monthly  
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.

approval, he said.

## Sustainable Communities Cited As Core For Growing Florida's Business Climate

A Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) report on the state's business climate is calling for a statewide strategy to ensure adequate future water supplies and for a statewide energy strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

DEO also calls on the Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Protection to initiate a statewide process to address economic development, land use, infrastructure and environmental stewardship over a 50-year period. [\[Report\]](#)

## Declining U.S. Foreclosure Rate Positive Sign But Florida Still Ranks #2 in Highest Counts

According to CoreLogic, there were 55,000 completed foreclosures in the U.S. in November 2012, down from 72,000 in November 2011, a year-over-year decrease of 23 percent. Approximately 1.2 million homes, or 3.0 percent of all homes with a mortgage, were in the national foreclosure inventory as of November 2012 compared to 1.5 million, or 3.5 percent, in November 2011. "The inventory of foreclosed properties continues to decline while the housing market demonstrates an ongoing ability to absorb the distressed sales that result from completed foreclosures," said Mark Fleming, chief economist for CoreLogic.

The five states with the highest number of completed foreclosures for the 12 months ending in November 2012 were: California (102,000), Florida (94,000), Michigan (75,000), Texas (58,000) and Georgia (52,000). These five states account for 50 percent of all completed foreclosures nationally.

| Foreclosure Data (Last 12 months) |                       |               |                        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Region                            | Foreclosure Inventory | 1-Year Change | Completed Foreclosures |
| National                          | 3.20%                 | -0.30%        | 768,189                |
| <b>Florida</b>                    | <b>10.40%</b>         | <b>-1.60%</b> | <b>94,427</b>          |
| Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater   | 10.90%                | -1.30%        | 14,397                 |
| Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford         | 10.50%                | -1.80%        | 10,826                 |

.....[\[More regional data\]](#)

**Local Government**

1st Tuesday  
Monthly  
10:30 a.m.

**Membership and  
Programs &  
Promotions**

(Joint Meeting)  
1st Wednesday  
Monthly  
3 p.m.

**Congratulations and Welcome to Baby Cole Nelson!**

FGBC would like to congratulate Jeremy Nelson and his wife on the birth of their first child! Jeremy is an FGBC Project Evaluator and is employed by the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa.

Cole Alexander James Nelson was born on December 22, 2012 at 10:05 a.m., measuring 21.5 inches, and weighing in at 8 pounds 2 ounces.



**FGBC Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents**

**New Members:**

- Claudia Daniels, ReMax Platinum Realty, Venice

**Re-joining Members:**

- Jeff Wenzel, Infinite Energy Solutions, Port Richey

**New Certifying Agents:**

- Jason Biondi, Energy Cost Solutions Group LLC, Miami
- Jeffrey Camden, Manatee County Government, Bradenton
- Tricia Kyzar, The Sustainable Design Group, LLC, Gainesville
- Joseph Snider, Sequil Systems, Inc, Delray Beach

**Re-joining Certifying Agents:**

- Jeff Wenzel, Infinite Energy Solutions, Port Richey