

May 2, 2013

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GreenTrends 2013 Save the Date!

Help Build FGBC Awareness

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President's Message

By Rob Vieira, President, Florida Green Building Coalition

I like to eat. I like to see kids excited about energy use. On May 4 I will do both as a taste tester at the Florida Solar Energy Center's (FSEC) Energy Whiz Olympics. School children from around the state compete in solar and hydrogen car races, energy innovation projects, solar cooker designs, and the solar cook-off. Thus my "difficult" role to judge the renewably heated gourmet meals -not everyone is brave enough to volunteer for my job. I go away energized from witnessing these enthusiastic students. They love the team projects, what they created and for some, the competition.



So how does this relate to FGBC? Two ways. First, it reminds us that having a passion for something is key to "our" success, and second, that sharing that passion with others is key to "its" success.

What are some ways to begin engaging yourself and others within your community to support green building? Find ways to involve school children in your area. Is there a science fair you can judge or for which you can serve as a mentor? Are there Earth Day activities or other events where you can volunteer? Look for opportunities to engage students in creative activities that require them to figure things out for themselves. Young people like sitting through a PowerPoint presentation that explains seven (or how many you decide) categories of green even less than adults! You may find your support helped a student choose a career in building science. Without an excited and well-educated next generation, the green movement will not succeed.

Bridging the Divide



August 20-23, 2013
Ritz-Carlton
Sarasota
Sarasota, FL

www.GreenTrends.org

REGISTER NOW!

Get Your Credentials

Earn FGBC's Certified
Green Professional
Designation

16 CEUs for Contractors-
CILB Course #0608298

16 CEUs for Architects-
Application Submitted

FGBC Certifying Agent
Annual Verification

RESERVE A BOOTH

\$100 Early-Bird Discount
Valid through 5/31/13

Articles of Interest

2015 IECC Code Changes Proposed

[\[More\]](#)

Orlando Builders Smothered By Lack of Financing Options

[\[More\]](#)

Tampa Sees Rebirth of the 'McMansions'

[\[More\]](#)

DOE Releases Top Efficiency Technologies For Residential Building

How can professionals regain the enthusiasm that I see in these children? Take some of the same cues. Learn something new or commit to resolving a challenge. Maybe it's finding some creative approach to involve a potential client who isn't convinced that green building offers value. Maybe it's educating your team members or finding new team members receptive to green building approaches. Don't forget to make it fun. And if you need a taste tester you know who to call.

Residential Energy Disclosure Policies Gaining Momentum Nationwide

Several jurisdictions in the United States have recently adopted residential energy use disclosure policies. Residential energy use disclosure is a promising policy option for a number of reasons, including (1) how it might motivate people to address valuation of energy-efficient homes in the home sale process; (2) how it can encourage energy efficiency upgrades for sellers aiming to make their home stand out in the market and/or for new buyers; and (3) how it can generate information needed for better valuation of energy efficiency improvements in a home for appraisals and mortgage underwriting.

A report by the American Council on Energy for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) reviews four main types of energy use disclosure being implemented: asset ratings; utility bills; energy efficiency features; and benchmarking. This is followed by an examination of energy disclosure/rating methods that are not mandatory but provide interesting insight into issues surrounding labeling programs. Efforts to disclose energy use and energy efficiency characteristics abroad are also explored in the report, and a number of studies on the effectiveness of longstanding residential energy performance rating programs are highlighted. [[Report](#)]

Energy Efficient Homes Are Lower Mortgage Risks

It's a well-known fact that energy efficient homes save their owners money but now a new study shows that they're also better mortgage investments. The report, titled, "Home Energy Efficiency and Mortgage Risks" found that homes with lower HERS Index Scores were deemed as low mortgage default risks, and that on average, mortgage default risks were 32 per cent lower on ENERGY STAR labeled homes that were rated by a certified RESNET Home Energy Rater. The University of North Carolina's Center for Community Capital,

HVAC Systems

[\[More\]](#)

Quick Links
Join FGBC
Linkedin Group
Facebook Blog
Join Our List
Join Our Mailing List!
Certification Counts

Most Recent Certifications

City of Oldsmar

Certified: 4-16-13
Points: 33%
Level: Silver

"Florida Green" Certifications To Date

Homes

301 Homes in 2013
5,747 total as of 3/31/13

Commercial Buildings

Registered: 22
Certified: 7

Hi-Rise

Registered: 4
Certified: 1

Land Development

Registered: 61
Certified: 12

Local Government

Registered: 57
Certified: 45

Multi-Family

In 2013
3 Buildings
92 Units

Florida Water Star Certifications

NWFWMD and SRWMD Areas

5 Homes

Education

and the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) officially released the report on March 19, 2013.

The report is based on a study using a sample of 71,000 mortgage loans, compiled from across 38 states and the District of Columbia. CoreLogic, the lending industry's leading source for such information, provided the data and the sample was restricted to single-family, owner-occupied homes whose mortgages were contracted during 2002-2012. RESNET supplied both the addresses and the homes' HERS Index scores to the University of North Carolina for the purposes of this study.

The report recommends: "An important way to encourage greater adoption of residential energy efficiency measures is for mortgage pricing or underwriting flexibility to reflect the savings that come as a result of energy efficiency."

[\[More\]](#) [\[Full Report\]](#)

Affordable Housing Funding Programs Get \$120 Million from Foreclosure Settlement

The House unanimously passed SB 1852 this week, spending \$200 million that is part of a multistate settlement with five large banks for fraudulent foreclosure practices. The package contains spending on affordable housing programs favored by the Senate, and funding for Habitat for Humanity favored by the House.

- \$20 million to Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate or reconstruct existing affordable housing facilities for low-income households.
- \$60 million for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to use in the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program.
- \$40 million for FHFC to use in the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP).

Other housing funding included:

- \$10 million to make upgrades to housing developments to make them accessible and usable for disabled tenants
- \$10 million grant for transitional housing for the homeless

Recent Legislative Actions

Opportunities

**1000 Friends of Florida
Free monthly webinars**
[\[More\]](#)

**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)
[\[Register\]](#)

**August 23, 2013
Environmental
Symposium**
Univ. of North Florida
Jacksonville, FL
[\[More\]](#)

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

Calendar of Events

**May 9-10, 2013
Affordable Housing
Preservation Conference**
Allegro Hotel
Chicago, IL
[More](#)

**May 15-17, 2013
National Brownfields
Conference**
Georgia World Congress
Center
Atlanta, GA
[More](#)

**May 18-23, 2013
BOAF Conference**

Moratorium on Fertilizer Ordinances Proposed

The House amended a permitting bill to add a moratorium on new fertilizer ordinances. The amendment to HB 999 would create the Florida Fertilizer Regulatory Review Council and establish a three-year moratorium on enforcing new local ordinances beyond a state model ordinance. Other local ordinances adopted since March 4 also would be pre-empted, possibly including an ordinance adopted last month by Rockledge in Brevard County.

Landscaping professionals and business groups have supported a state pre-emption of local fertilizer ordinances, saying that a patchwork of regulations was being created. Opponents of fertilizer legislation have said stronger local rules are needed sometimes to protect waterways. [\[More\]](#)

\$949 Million Earmarked for Energy Saving Homes

The President's 2014 proposed budget outlines a number of broad energy goals, including creating permanent tax incentives for renewable electricity and energy efficiency, at an estimated cost of \$23 billion over the next 10 years, and repealing tax provisions for oil, gas and coal products, raising revenues by \$44 billion over 10 years.

Additionally, the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) FY2014 budget commits \$2.78 billion to clean energy research, development, and deployment (RD&D) activities. EERE's funding would be allocated across the transportation, power generation, and energy efficiency sectors as follows:

- \$957 million for Sustainable Transportation, a 55 percent increase from current FY12 levels
- \$949 million for Energy Saving Homes, Building, and Manufacturing, a 95 percent increase from current FY12 levels
- \$615.5 million for Renewable Electricity Generation, a 31 percent increase from current FY12 levels

The President's budget increases Department of Energy (DOE) funding by eight percent over fiscal year 2012 levels. This would help mitigate the effects of sequestration, increasing the DOE appropriations by \$2.4 billion to \$28.4 billion in 2014, up from around \$26 billion today. [\[More\]](#)

Nuclear Cost Recovery Gets 'Contained'

The Florida Senate voted last week (39-0) to approve a bill to revise the 2006 law that allows utilities to charge customers for nuclear projects regardless of whether they are built. SB 1472 by Sen. John Legg, R-Port Richey, would deny cost recovery 20 years after a federal nuclear plant license was obtained.

Daytona Hilton
Daytona Beach, FL
[More](#)

May 22-25, 2013
FL City & County Mgmt Assn (FCCMA)
Hilton Orlando
Orlando, FL
[More](#)

June 20-22, 2013
AIA Annual Convention
Denver Convention Center
Denver, CO
[More](#)

July 11-13, 2013
SEBC
Orange County
Conventer Ctr
Orlando, FL
[More](#)

August 21-23, 2013
GreenTrends Conerence & Tradeshow
Ritz Carlton
Sarasota, FL
[More](#)

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.

GreenTrends
4th Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

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

Florida Power & Light Co. has collected \$662 million for two planned nuclear units in Miami-Dade County and for upgrades there and at its St. Lucie power plant. Progress Energy Florida has collected \$819 million for upgrades at Crystal River and a planned new Levy County plant. Neither utility has committed to building new nuclear plants. [[More](#)]

UF Wins EPA Campus Rainworks Challenge

The University of Florida took first place in a competition sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency focused on developing infrastructure that reduces stormwater pollution and supports sustainable communities.

The team's design plan centers on the redevelopment of Reitz Lawn, an 11-acre open area and pedestrian corridor on campus. The plan aims to remove pollutants from stormwater before they reach nearby Lake Alice, which drains directly into the Floridian Aquifer.

The U.S. EPA launched the Campus RainWorks Challenge in May 2012 to inspire the next generation of landscape architects, planners, and engineers to develop innovative green infrastructure systems that mitigate the impacts of urban stormwater while supporting sustainable communities. Student teams were invited to create an innovative green infrastructure design for a site on their campus showing how managing stormwater at its source can benefit the campus community and the environment. Winning teams earned a cash prize, as well as research funds for their faculty advisor to conduct research on green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater and create healthier urban environments. While single-purpose "gray" stormwater infrastructure (e.g. catch basins, pipes, and ponds) is largely designed to move urban stormwater away from the built environment, green infrastructure uses vegetation and soil to manage rainwater where it falls. By weaving natural processes into the built environment, green infrastructure can provide not only stormwater management, but also heat island mitigation, air quality management, community amenities, and much more.

EPA plans to offer the competition again in the fall of 2013. [[More](#)]

Florida Home Sales, Prices Rebound

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 Meeting)
1st Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

Florida homes sold quicker, more often and for higher prices last month than in March 2012, as tight supplies and investor zeal helped the market to revive, state Realtors data show.

Florida's median home prices last month bested the year before for the 15th month in a row, climbing 15 percent to \$160,000, data show. Sales climbed 9 percent over March 2012, with nearly half of the 20,000 closings paid in cash.

Tight inventories continue to turn the market's screws, squeezing newly emboldened buyers into shrinking supplies. If no more homes were added, the state's inventory would sell in five months, below the six-month supply commonly considered healthy.

Bidding wars, often between prospective buyers and speculative investors, helped trim the typical home's days on the market to less than two months while bumping prices higher. [[More](#)]

Florida Tops National Foreclosure Rate

The five states with the highest number of completed foreclosures for the 12 months ending in March 2013 were: Florida (103,000), California (83,000), Michigan (70,000), Texas (53,000) and Georgia (48,000). These five states account for almost half of all completed foreclosures nationally.

Earn Cash Back with FGBC Rewards Program

The Florida Green Building Coalition Membership Committee recently announced a "Cash Back" rewards program. For every new member recruited, the sponsoring FGBC member earns 10 percent of the new member's annual membership fee. Rewards are applied to the sponsor's annual renewal. Check the FGBC website for details and to download.

Certifying Agents this is a no-brainer for you. Every time you contract for certification services, be sure to include an FGBC membership in your contract price. Fill out the membership form and submit with payment to FGBC to earn your rewards. [[More](#)]

FGBC Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents

New Members:

- Angela Whitney, Groninger Custom Homes, Inc., Winter Park

FGBC Sponsor: Tracy DeCarlo

Re-joining Members:

- Keith Groninger, Groninger Custom Homes, Inc., Winter Park

FGBC Sponsor: Tracy DeCarlo

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cook, CAE
FGBC Executive Director