

January 9, 2015

**PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:
Evernia Place Earns FGBC Certification;
Highest Scoring High-Rise Project to Date**



Evernia Place in West Palm Beach recently earned the highest score (65) in the history of the FGBC Green High-Rise Residential Building certification program, far exceeding the minimum required score of 50. The project is an 85-unit, 118,531 square foot community for active seniors offering one and two bedroom floor plans within a 7-story high-rise building.

Some of the project's green achievements include the purchase of green power to operate 75 percent of the building's energy requirements, Energy Star appliances, and low-flow plumbing fixtures. Other water conservation measures were the use of drought tolerant plants in 75 percent of the landscape and a 75 percent reduction of potable water use for irrigation.

To increase indoor air quality, low- or no-VOC materials such as adhesives, paints, carpets, insulation, and composite wood products were specified for interior areas.

Close proximity to public transportation and services promote an active lifestyle, while reducing the need for vehicle use.

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Fannie Mae Selling Guidelines Updated To Address Comparable Sales & Solar Panels

Fannie Mae updated its Selling Guide for single-family homes to include an adjustment to comparable sales that eliminated the 15 percent net and 25 percent gross adjustment guidelines. It also clarified its policy on the valuation of homes with solar panels.

Under the new comparable sales guidelines, Fannie provides clarification with respect to its expectations for appraisers to analyze the market for competitive properties and provide appropriate market-based adjustments without regard to limits on the size of the adjustments.

Under the new solar panel guidelines, Fannie will treat owned systems under standard eligibility requirements and prohibit leased systems from being considered within the appraisal.

The changes for both policies are effective immediately. [[More](#)]

Pine Avenue Restoration Project & Anna Marie Island Earn Eco-Tourism Recognition

The Pine Avenue Restoration Project, 11 modest low-rise cottage-type residences over retail, has catapulted Anna Maria Island to the center of the nation's sustainable tourism and eco-travel conversation.

Recently, Anna Marie Island was named one of the world's top islands by Condé Nast Traveler readers (No. 26), and a group from the United Nations and emissaries from the Patel College of Global Sustainability visited Anna Maria's Pine Avenue to use it as a model for successful green tourism.

(Editor's note: Nine residential units achieved the Florida Green Building Coalition's 'Florida Green' Home certification, seven of which achieved platinum level. Congratulations to Pine Avenue Restoration, LLC.)

[[More](#)]

Florida Voters Earmark \$18 Billion For Future Land Conservation

The Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative (Amendment 1) approved last November dedicates no less than 33 percent of net revenue from the existing excise tax on real estate transactions to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for the next 20 years. The Florida effort was the largest land conservation measure ever approved in a single state, estimated at \$18 billion over 20 years.

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Education Opportunities

January 13, 2015
Florida Water Star New Certifier Training
Kissimmee, FL
Registration is Free
[Download Flyer](#)
[[More](#)]

[Building America Webinars](#)

February 3, 2015
Florida Water Star Accredited Professional Training
Palm Coast, FL
Cost: \$25
[Download Flyer](#)
[[More](#)]

The Land Acquisition Trust Fund was designed to manage and restore natural systems and to enhance public access and recreational use of conservation lands. Specifically it was developed to acquire and improve conservation easements, wildlife management areas, wetlands, forests, fish and wildlife habitats, beaches and shores, recreational trails and parks, urban open space, rural landscapes, working farms and ranches, historical and geological sites, lands protecting water and drinking water resources and lands in the Everglades Agricultural Areas and the Everglades Protection Area. [[More](#)]

Ballot Petition Launched to Boost Solar Power in Florida

Backers of broader use of solar energy in Florida have quietly launched a petition for the 2016 ballot that would allow those who generate electricity from the sun to sell the power directly to other consumers.

If the measure passes, solar proponents argue that it would open up Florida's solar energy market, which has largely stagnated for years. The measure would allow business or property owners to produce up to 2 megawatts of solar power and then sell that power directly to others, such as tenants, without having to go through a utility.

Under Florida law, only utilities can sell electricity directly to consumers, though solar proponents argue that 36 states allow the practice. By removing the utilities as middlemen, the argument goes, it could help spur solar as a clean-energy alternative. [[More](#)]

Barriers to Entry-Level Homes: Five Places to Save vs Spend

To produce an affordable, entry-level home, architects and builders must apply creative solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems like rising land costs, burdensome entitlement fees, and unrealistic millennial tastes. Here are five places architects say money can be saved with conventional and highly adventurous approaches. [[More](#)]

FGBC Rewards Program Recipients Announced

In October 2013, on a recommendation from the Programs & Promotions Committee chaired by Cindy Hall (owner of Eco Marketing Solutions in Jensen Beach), the Board of Directors authorized a tiered rewards program for Certifying Agents based on number of homes certified annually.

April 14-15, 2015
FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course
Cocoa, FL
[[Register](#)]

Calendar of Events

February 21-22, 2015
MiaGreen Expo & Conference
Miami Airport Convention Center
Miami, FL
[[More](#)]

Certification News

Commercial
Registered: 32
Certified: 11

High Rise
Registered: 32
Certified: 7

Homes
Registered: 9249
Certified: 9061

Single-Family: 7266
Multi-Family: 1833

Land Developments
Registered: 62
Certified: 13

Local Government
Registered: 73
Certified: 54

Recent Certifications

[Evernia Place](#)
Location: West Palm Beach
Type: High-Rise Residential
Certified: 12-31-14
Score: 65
Level: N/A

Recent Registrations:

Celebration Community Development District Facility
Location: Celebration
Type: Commercial
Size: 7,280 s.f.

FGBC Committee Meetings

Board of Directors
2nd Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

- Gold Level-100+ Homes - free membership and GreenTrends registration
- Silver Level-50-99 - 50% discount on membership and GreenTrends registration
- Bronze Level-25-49 - 25% discount on membership and GreenTrends registration

Congratulations to the following Certifying Agents for their 2014 achievements in recruiting participants into the FGBC certification programs:

Certifying Agent	Company	Location	Level
Gary Carmack	All Elements Mechanical Corp	Orlando	Gold
Randy Conn	ES Green & Company	Tallahassee	Gold
Tracy DeCarlo	One Stop Green Home Certification	Apopka	Silver
Stephanie Gray	E3 Building Sciences	Bonita Springs	Silver
Tom Karras	E3 Building Sciences	Bonita Springs	Bronze
Jennifer Languell	Trifecta Construction Solutions	Fort Myers	Gold
Lisa Percy	All Elements Mechanical Corp	Longwood	Gold
Nate Ritter	Green Built Solutions	Orlando	Silver
Drew Smith	Two Trails, Inc	Sarasota	Gold
Joe Weaver	Cool Green Consulting	Apollo Beach	Gold
Jeffrey Wenzel	Infinite Energy Solutions	New Port Richey	Silver

Florida Green Building Magazine To Re-launch This Summer

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) and Innovative Publishing have entered into an agreement for publication of the *Florida Green Building* magazine in both print and digital formats. From cover-to-cover, *Florida Green Building* will be entirely devoted to delivering information on green building and sustainable design to Florida building industry professionals and government officials seeking green products, expert advice, and case studies showcasing best practices around the state.

Have a project or product to showcase? Contact FGBC at 850-894-3422 or by [email](#).

Feds Lower Mortgage Insurance Rates In Effort to Help First-Time Homebuyers

President Obama lowered the mortgage-insurance premium for borrowers who have a down payment of just 3.5 percent of the home's purchase price and finance the rest of the purchase with a loan backed by the Federal Housing Administration.

The reduction is expected to save the typical first-time homebuyer an average of \$900 a year on the insurance, the White House said. The insurance is required because they're financing so much of the purchase and the loans are riskier. [\[More\]](#)

Commercial
1st Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Education
1st Thursday
Monthly
3 p.m.

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

Homes and Affordable Housing
(Joint Meeting)
2nd Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development
4th Wednesday
Bi-monthly
2 p.m.

Local Government
3rd Wednesday
Monthly
10:30 a.m.

Membership and Programs & Promotions
(Joint Meeting)
3rd Thursday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Funding Opportunities

[St. Johns River WMD Water Programs](#)

[South Florida WMD Water Programs](#)

[Southwest Florida WMD Water Programs](#)

FHFC Multifamily Energy Retrofit Program (MERP)
[\[More\]](#)

Job Opportunities

[APA Florida Job Board](#)

[Green Dream Jobs](#)

[Florida Facility Managers Assn Job Board](#)

[City of Sunrise Internship opportunity](#)

FGBC Welcomes New Members

SFI Forest Management Standards Updated

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative has launched new standards and rules to promote sustainable forest management across the supply chain. A major change to the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules is the establishment of three stand-alone standards:

The **SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard** - requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with exceptional conservation value.

The **SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard** - requirements include measures to broaden the conservation of biodiversity, use forestry best management practices to protect water quality, provide outreach to landowners and utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals. Because it directs how SFI Program Participants procure fiber from non-certified land, this standard encourages the use of responsible forestry practices.

The **SFI 2015-2019 Chain of Custody Standard** - tracks the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and recycled content through production and manufacturing to the end product.
[\[More\]](#)

Henry Howard (Rejoin)
Green Real Estate Services
Tampa

Carl Krave
[Pocket Neighborhoods, Inc](#)
Dunedin

Al Penny
[Crescent Communities, LLC](#)
Winter Garden

R. J. Doerrfeld (Rejoin)
[Nuline Building Systems, Inc](#)
North Port