



# GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

January 18, 2009

## In This Issue

[Calendar](#)

[Articles of Interest](#)

[FGBC Conference Dates Announced](#)

[Senate Recommends Expanding Energy Tax Incentives](#)

[GreenTrends 2009 - Call for Presentations](#)

[FDEP Funding Available for Local Water Projects](#)

[Florida's '09 Construction Outlook](#)

[Tips for Successful Grant Writing Offered](#)

[\\$3M in Community Grants to Be Awarded](#)

[FGBC Partners with GreenCities](#)

[Pinellas County Wins EPA Water Efficiency Award](#)

[Video Shows Green Tactics to Manage Stormwater](#)

[Groups Work Together on Water Efficiency Research](#)

[Renewable Energy Gets Push in Florida Legislature](#)

[FGBC Family NewsNotes...Congratulations to FSEC's...Sabrina Naylor](#)

## Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

[Join Our List](#)

## FGBC Conference Dates Announced

### Save the Dates

#### March 17-19, 2009 FGBC Mid-Year Conference And Green Communities Workshop

*Designing & Developing Green Communities 2009 - Surviving Now & Thriving Later with Green Land Practices* Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando

Special keynotes by Steven Kellenberg, Vice President of ED&A/AECOM, "Using Carbon Savings to Sell in Today's Market", plus Walter Kulash, editor of the American Civil Engineering Society's "Residential Streets - Selling Sustainable Transportation to Governments and Buyers." Also participating in the conference is Eric H. Livingston, Chief, Bureau of Watershed Restoration for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This two-day, intensive education event offers six dynamic panel discussions:

1. Meeting the Challenge of Low Impact Development Regulations
2. Good to the Last Drop: Innovation and Market Success in Water-Efficient Communities
3. Green Designation Programs for Land Development Projects
4. Redesigning What You Already Planned for Today's Market
5. Visioning 2060
6. Responding to Question 29 for DRIs

Registration opens January 26, 2009

- Learn the latest best land development practices, opportunities and regulations
- Network with members from other organizations with sustainable development goals
- Provide feedback to state leaders and policy makers
- Earn continuing education credits

For sponsorship opportunities, contact the Florida Green Building Coalition, telephone 850-894-3422 or email: [cooksb@nettally.com](mailto:cooksb@nettally.com) Registration opens January 26, 2009 at [www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org](http://www.FloridaGreenBuilding.org)

Join Our Mailing List!

## Calendar

**January 19-24, 2009**  
**[International Builders Show](#)**  
 Las Vegas, Nevada  
 Caesar's Palace  
 Florida Host Hotel

**January 27, 2009**  
**[Planning, Financing, & Developing Affordable Housing For Ownership](#)**  
 Sponsor: Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
 8214 Universal Blvd.  
 Orlando, FL

**February 3, 2009**  
**[Effective Renewable Energy Policies: Stimulating Job Creation, Long Term Investments, and Improving Energy Security](#)**  
 Featuring discussions on Feed in Tariffs, Net Metering, Rebates  
 Doubletree Hotel  
 Tallahassee, FL

**February 4, 2009**  
**[APA Florida Public Policy Workshop](#)**  
 Ramada Conference Center  
 2900 North Monroe Street  
 Tallahassee  
 Ph: 850-201-3272

**February 10, 2009**  
**[Incorporating Green Design Into Affordable Housing](#)**  
 Sponsor: Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
 8214 Universal Blvd.  
 Orlando, FL

**February 28, 2009**  
**[An Introduction to Valuing Green Buildings](#)**  
 Renaissance Orlando Resort  
 SeaWorld  
 6677 Sea Harbor Drive  
 Orlando, FL  
 Ph: 407-888-9480

**March 17-19, 2009**  
**[FGBC Mid-Year Conference & Green Communities Workshop](#)**  
 Rosen Shingle Creek  
 Orlando, FL  
 Ph: 850-894-3422

**May 27-29, 2009**  
**National Green Builders**

## **June 10-12, 2009** **FGBC GreenTrends 2009**

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront  
 St. Petersburg

For exhibitor information, contact FGBC by email at [cooks@nettally.com](mailto:cooks@nettally.com) or call the Florida Green Building Coalition at 850-894-3422.

## GreenTrends 2009 - Call for Presentations

You're considered an expert. Now share your experience and knowledge by submitting a proposal for consideration as a presenter during the Florida Green Building Coalition's **2009 GreenTrends Conference and Tradeshow** scheduled for June 10-12, 2009 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront in St. Petersburg, FL.

The purpose of this conferences is to provide high-quality education and networking opportunities for green building and sustainability professionals. Our multiple day, multiple track format offers a self-directed, facilitated learning environment with education sessions, interactive forums, and, exhibits for discovering the latest technologies and products.

Presentations are designed for all levels of experience - from fundamental to intermediate to advanced topics. Download the [Call for Presentation Form](#).

## Senate Recommends Expanding Energy Tax Incentives

As part of the federal government's efforts to stimulate the lagging U.S. economy, Sens. Olympia Snowe (D-Maine) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) recommended in a Jan. 6 letter to President-elect Barack Obama significant expansions in two important energy tax incentives that promote energy-efficient construction.

"It is paramount that stimulus funding be utilized for capital improvements," the legislators wrote, "and our nation's building stock offers one of the greatest opportunities to see an immediate and long-term return on this investment."

Among other energy tax incentives, the present tax code provides a \$2,000 credit to builders of qualified energy-efficient homes and a \$1.80-per-square-foot deduction for installation of certain energy-efficient features in commercial buildings, including multifamily properties four or more stories above grade. The former - the Section 45L new energy-efficient home tax credit - expires at the end of 2009, while the latter - the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial building deduction - sunsets at the end of 2013.

**Products Expo (NGBPE)**

Las Vegas Convention Center  
Las Vegas, NV  
PH: 800-859-9247

**June 10-12, 2009**

**[FGBC GreenTrends Tradeshow](#)**

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Ph: 850-894-3422

**Articles of Interest****Loggerhead Marina Receives Clean Marina Designation**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), together with the Clean Boating Partnership, recently recognized the Loggerhead Club & Marina in Lantana as the 190th member of the Florida Clean Marina Program. With the addition of the Loggerhead Club & Marina Lantana, the state has now designated a total of 191 Clean Marinas, 30 Clean Boatyards and eight Clean Marine Retailers.

Florida Clean Marina Program facilities are required to meet a variety of best management practices to receive designation. These practices include, but are not limited to, properly storing and disposing of used oil, using fertilizers and pesticides according to directions, and using cleaning methods that prevent the release of pollutants.

[\[More\]](#)

**Ethanol Plant Coming to Florida**

A Massachusetts biofuel technology company announced plans to develop and operate an ethanol production facility in Florida that will produce 36 million gallons of fuel per year from non-food biomass crops grown by Lykes Brothers Inc.

Verenium Corp.'s planned commercial facility will be the first in the state to use next-generation cellulosic ethanol production technology to convert a crop called "energy cane" to fuel, rather than using a food crop. Verenium President and CEO Carlos Riva said the plant will be in full production by 2011.

The Florida commercial-scale plant, which will require an estimated \$250 to \$300 million investment, will be supplied with feedstocks grown on a nearby 20,000-acre tract of Lykes

The senators propose to increase the impact of these incentives by extending the tax credit for three years and increasing the credit amount to \$5,000. They also propose increasing the deduction from \$1.80 per square foot to \$3 per square foot through the end of 2011 for all commercial buildings.

"By investing in highly efficient homes, the U.S. can lower home owners' monthly energy bills for the life of the home and allow them to invest in their own and their children's future," the lawmakers argue.

NAHB has supported extending and expanding these important incentives to improve the energy efficiency of the nation's housing and commercial building stock and applauds the senators' recommendations and leadership on this issue.

**FDEP Funding Available for Local Water Projects**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced recently that local governments eager to begin building wastewater treatment, reuse and stormwater projects will benefit from \$250 million in bonds issued through DEP's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). The SRF awards low-interest loans for water pollution control projects. In addition to saving local governments millions of dollars in interest payments, the loans stimulate local economies, create jobs, and protect the environment by restoring and protecting aquatic wildlife, fishing and swimming, and drinking water sources. [\[More\]](#)

As part of the Federal Economic Stimulus package, Florida's clean water programs are expected to receive significant funding for projects that can be done within the next two to three years. It is anticipated that the State Revolving Fund will receive up to \$400 million for wastewater and stormwater treatment projects and the Section 319 NPS grant program will receive up to \$40 million for stormwater retrofitting treatment projects. These are "move dirt, construction projects". Financial assistance is available for wastewater, stormwater, drinking water, or surface water improvement projects. [\[More\]](#)

**\$3M in Community Grants to Be Awarded**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is making nearly \$3 million available in 2009 to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. CARE is a community-based program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources.

EPA will award CARE cooperative agreements in two levels.

Brothers land. [\[More\]](#)

### **Manufacturers, Retailers Boost Consumer Electronics Recycling**

Plug-In to eCycling partners expanded their electronics recycling programs and collected and recycled more than 66.5 million pounds of used electronics in 2008, nearly a 30 percent increase from the previous year.

Plug-In To eCycling is a partnership between EPA and leading consumer electronics manufacturers and retailers that fosters opportunities for consumers to donate or recycle their used electronics. [\[More\]](#)

Level I awards range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities and become self-sustaining. Applications for the CARE grants are due March 16, 2009 [\[More\]](#)

### **Tips for Successful Grant Writing Offered**

*Tawainga Katsvairo, PhD, AloStar LLC*

The United States government provides over \$500 billion annually in grants. Additionally, billions are awarded annually in non-federal grants. These grants are available to all forms of businesses (including single member LLCs and Corporations) as well as non-profit organizations. Grants are often necessary to enable organizations to accomplish their mission and goals. However, the number of organizations pursuing grants has made the grant application process very competitive, with only creative and well-refined projects winning the grant awards. The current hardships in the economy coupled with the newly elected Obama administration's commitment to various national goals (i.e. energy independence), will only make competition for grants keener.

Provided in the article referenced below are a few tips for successful grant writing. In requesting grants, always remember that your organization's credibility and competence will be initially judged by the grant proposal. Make your proposal count. [\[Read the article\]](#)

### **Florida's '09 Construction Outlook - 7 Percent Dip**

McGraw-Hill Construction is forecasting that the value of new 2009 contracts will total about \$30.8 billion, down from the current estimate for 2008 of nearly \$33.2 billion. (As perspective, the state's 2005 total construction value was \$71.7 billion.). Considering the major overall declines that Florida's construction industry has been experiencing in recent years - driven mostly by residential construction - the 7% drop in total construction for 2009 should sound like welcome news to some Sunshine State contractors.

[\[More\]](#)

### **FGBC Partners with GreenCities**

*Event dates changed to May 19-21, 2009*

In partnership with FGBC, [Green Cities™](#) will host a 3-day education event designed to be a demonstration of

sustainable solutions. It offers interactive and collaborative workshops, nationally known experts in sustainability, best practices case studies, conversation café environments, meet the consultants roundtable, green jobs seminar, and open space technology sessions. Join us at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando May 19-21, 2009.

## Pinellas County Wins EPA Water Efficiency Award

Pinellas County Utilities provides water, wastewater, and solid waste services for the most densely populated county in Florida, Pinellas County. Pinellas County has become one of the most water efficient per capita at 89 gallons per person per day (gpd), versus the national average of 134 gpd. Since 1991, including the past five years for which this award is given, per capita efficiency has improved over 40 percent.

Water efficiency is an integral part of daily operations including noted programs such as C.H.A.M.P., Conservation Hotel and Motel Program; Commercial-Industrial Water Use Program; Ultra Low Flow Toilet Program; Alternate Water Sources Rebate Program focused on irrigation. Together with other programs the comprehensive approach includes reclaimed water and water efficiency, includes all sectors of the local economy, and utilizes education and outreach as well as rebates and technical assistance.

The EPA Water Efficiency Leader Awards categories include utilities, individuals, corporations, non-governmental organizations and government. [\[More\]](#)

## Video Shows Green Tactics to Manage Stormwater

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Botanic Garden produced an on-line video, "Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In," that highlights green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs and rain barrels to help manage stormwater runoff.

The film showcases green techniques that are being used in urban areas to reduce the effects of stormwater runoff on the quality of downstream receiving waters. The goal is to mimic the natural way water moves through an area before development by using design techniques that infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff close to its source.

The techniques are innovative stormwater management practices that manage urban stormwater runoff at its source, and are very effective at reducing the volume of stormwater runoff and capturing harmful pollutants. Using vegetated areas that capture runoff also improves air quality, mitigates the effects of urban heat islands and reduces a community's overall carbon footprint.

The video highlights green techniques on display in 2008 at the U.S. Botanic Garden's "One Planet - Ours!" Exhibit" and at the U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C., including recently completed cisterns. [Watch the video](#)

## Groups Work Together on Water Efficiency Research

Five national organizations are joining forces in a historic partnership to further research into water efficiency in plumbing. These organizations with expertise in water efficiency and plumbing will develop research programs to assist in the development and use of water efficient plumbing. The research will cover efficient and sustainable products, systems and practices.

"New developments and improvements in water efficiency technology depend on credible research results," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "Today's ground-breaking agreement helps ensure that plumbing stakeholders join forces to analyze important water efficiency issues."

"By joining forces the organizations can better use their resources to advance water efficiency research in areas where there is a common interest and need," said Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the organization leading the partnership. "Initial projects being considered for research are high efficiency toilet drainage, water re-use systems, non-water consuming urinals, and sizing of water efficient plumbing systems. We want to make sure that as we move forward with changes in water efficiency requirements, those changes are based on solid research in the field."

The Memorandum of Understanding signed today by all parties formalizes the agreement reached on conducting the research projects, and took more than a year to negotiate. The five groups that are part of the agreement are:

Alliance for Water Efficiency  
International Code Council  
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials  
Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association  
Plumbing Manufacturers Institute

[More information](#) on the MOU:

## Renewable Energy Gets Push in Florida Legislature

Florida electric companies would have to rely on an increasingly heavy mix of wind, solar and biomass to generate their power over the next 11 years, under a proposed rule state regulators voted to send to the

Legislature on January 10, 2009.

Calling their decision "historic," the Florida Public Service Commission unanimously voted to send the Legislature the proposal that calls for 20 percent of their fuel mix to come from renewable energy sources by 2020. They also agreed that consumers could be charged up to 3 percent more in order to jumpstart the market for the clean technologies.

[\[More\]](#)

## FGBC Family NewsNotes

Congratulations to FSEC's **Sabrina Naylor** and new hubby **Jason Liguori** on their recent marriage. Sabrina has been an invaluable assistant to FGBC and its Green Home Certification program.



**Sincerely,**

*Suzanne B. Cook, CAE*  
Executive Director

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