



# GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

May 12, 2009

## Register Today for GreenTrends 2009

Green building, once a quiet revolution, is now a revolutionary force.

GreenTrends is your distinct advantage to the green building market.

For a line-up of education programs and speakers, visit the GreenTrends website at [www.GreenTrends.org](http://www.GreenTrends.org)

**GreenTrends  
June 10-12, 2009  
Hilton Bayfront  
St. Petersburg, FL**

### [Register Now!](#)

Early-bird discounts on registration and hotel available until May 20.

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## Local Governments Reach FGBC Certification

The **City of Tallahassee** was the first "city" to reach the gold level certification under the FGBC Green Local Government Designation. Originally awarded the silver level in December 2007, Tallahassee was committed to doing more and set the highest score to date for a city at 42.6%. The City regularly organizes green building training to educate its elected officials and staff. It includes green principles in new employee orientation by providing education on available energy saving features, recycling guidelines, and alternative commuting options and incentives. It also promotes and tracks eco-tourism, participates in a speakers' bureau and applies Florida-friendly landscaping principles (FY&N) at its facilities. As a utility, the City of Tallahassee offers green power, renewable energy credits and distributed generation incentives.

The **City of Tampa** was the second city to reach gold level certification with an impressive score of 41%. As part of their efforts, the City offers incentives for green commercial and residential building as well as Energy Star homes. Their water programs are widely recognized and include car wash and fountain standards, conservation through education and incentives including rebates for low flow fixtures. They also apply Florida friendly landscaping principles (Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program), utilize integrated pest management to reduce the use of pesticides, and have conducted a city-wide energy audit of their facilities in an effort to measure and identify goals to reduce energy consumption.

Also earning FGBC Green Local Government certifications were:

**City of Palm Coast** - Silver level designation. Palm Coast incorporated water conservation and recycling strategies into their sustainability plans.

**Indian River County** - Gold level designation earning 43%. IRC encourages Environmentally Preferable Purchasing programs (EPP), conducts a green building awards program and maintains an electronic database of energy code compliance for its buildings. The County also developed an eco-tourism campaign, maintains a green fleet and assists with greening affordable housing projects.

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## EPA Report Tracks Residential Trends

EPA released a report, "Residential Construction Trends in America's Metropolitan Regions," which examines building trends in the 50 largest metropolitan areas from 1990 to 2007. The report shows that while a large share of new residential construction still takes place on previously undeveloped land at the urban fringe, more than half of the county's larger metro regions have seen a sharp increase in residential building in urban core areas. EPA believes this trend reflects growing appreciation in many communities for smart growth development that reuses already developed property and infrastructure, protects air and water quality, and preserves natural lands and critical environmental areas. [View the report](#)

## Tax Credits Extended by Stimulus Package

As part of the Economic Stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 modifies and extends federal tax credits for eligible building components that improve energy efficiency. To be eligible, windows, doors and skylights must have both a U-Factor equal to or less than 0.30 and a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) equal to or less than 0.30.

Tax credit is for the cost of the product only and does not include installation costs. Be sure to ask for a sales receipt that shows the cost of the product only. Tax credit is 30% of the amount paid for the product up to a maximum of \$1,500 combined for 2009 and 2010 (Including other eligible items listed in the IRS Notice). This is a new tax credit for 2009 and 2010.

### How to qualify for the Tax Credit:

Purchase a qualifying window or door with Low-E or High-Performance™ Low-E4® glass. The window or door must have both a U-Factor and SHGC of 0.30 or lower.

Save your sales receipt and each window or door performance label (NFRC/ENERGY STAR® label) with your tax documents.

Purchase and install qualifying products beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 and meet all other requirements outlined in the federal tax code.

Claim the tax credit associated with your qualifying purchase on your Federal filing for the 2009 and/or 2010 tax year.

## Order Your FGBC Shirts

FGBC's Fund Raising Committee has FGBC embroidered eco friendly shirts available for purchase. Place your order before May 20 and pick up at FGBC's annual GreenTrends Conference scheduled for June 10-12 at the Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg. If you aren't able to attend GreenTrends, we will ship to you for additional \$7.95. For questions, [email Stephanie](#)

You can order online at [www.GreenTrends.org](http://www.GreenTrends.org)

## GreenTrends Offers Authors Venue to Sell Their Books

FGBC is offering those of you who have authored books on green building the opportunity to sell your publications at this year's GreenTrends, scheduled for June 10-12 at the Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg. A bookstore will be setup onsite

and staffed with volunteers. FGBC will not purchase any of these books, but we will give you the venue to sell them. We would like to receive in return a small commission - 10 percent of the sales price. This is another effort by the FGBC Fundraising Committee to help generate resources for our organization. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact FGBC at 850-894-3422 or [email](#).

#### Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

#### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

#### Calendar

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

**July 29- Aug 31, 2009**  
**FLERA 2009 Annual**  
**Conference**  
 Hyatt Regency Sarasota  
 Sarasota, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

#### Articles of Interest

[Studies Show Green Building Is Key to Economic Future](#)

[US mayors planning for green prosperity](#)

[Survey: Americans Positive on Environmental Investing](#)

[Oregon Senate votes to phase out fire retardant](#)

[USGBC Releases Regional LEED Credits](#)

## Abney Tapped President of USGBC South Florida

Kyle Abney, CGC, LEED AP, was recently appointed President of the US Green Building Council South Florida Chapter. Abney represents the Chapter in South Florida and throughout the green building industry as the organization's chief ambassador and spokesperson. Abney, a LEED Accredited Professional, is a state-licensed general contractor and the Principal of Abney + Abney Green Solutions, a full-service commercial and residential green building consulting firm. He also serves on the Board for the Florida Green Building Coalition.

## FGBC Seeks Public Comment for Standard

The public comment period is now open for the Florida Green Building Coalition's Green Government Standard. If you have some suggested revisions to the local government standard, now is the time to submit them. The comment period will be open until May 30, 2009. Please submit your suggested revision on the Modification Request Form. The form and standard can also be found at [www.floridagreenbuilding.org](http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org), under the FGBC Certification Programs, Green Local Government Standard for Green Cities & Counties. Please submit your revision to [Lori.Cunniff@ocfl.net](mailto:Lori.Cunniff@ocfl.net) or [cooksb@nettally.com](mailto:cooksb@nettally.com) before the deadline.

If you are interested in joining the subcommittee, evaluating the comments and reviewing the standards, please send your contact information to [Lori.Cunniff@ocfl.net](mailto:Lori.Cunniff@ocfl.net)

## AIA Sets Sustainable Design CEU Requirement

The AIA Board of Directors modified the AIA-member continuing education requirement to include 4 hours of education in sustainable design as part of the existing 18-hour annual requirement. This sustainable design requirement became effective in calendar year 2009 and extends through 2012. This sustainable design mandatory requirement is for AIA membership renewal. However, some states may develop their own continuing education requirements in addition to HSW. For verification of a specific state's mandatory continuing education (MCE) requirement, please contact the state licensing board directly. [\[More\]](#)

## Stimulus Funding Targets Healthier Environment

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 specifically includes \$7.22 billion for projects and programs administered by EPA. These programs will protect and promote both green jobs and a healthier environment. These

[Southeast Positioned for Renewable Energy, WRI Report Says](#)

environmental areas include:

**Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** \$4 billion for assistance to help communities with water quality and wastewater infrastructure needs and \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure needs. A portion of the funding will be targeted toward green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency, and environmentally innovative projects.

**Brownfields:** \$100 million for competitive grants to evaluate and clean up former industrial and commercial sites.

**Diesel Emissions Reduction:** \$300 million for grants and loans to help regional, state and local governments, tribal agencies, and non-profit organizations with projects that reduce diesel emissions.

**Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup:** \$600 million for the cleanup of hazardous sites.

**Leaking Underground Storage Tanks:** \$200 million for cleanup of petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks.

The new law is geared for performance and unprecedented transparency: preference will be given to projects that can be started and completed expeditiously, and EPA intends to move designated funds to states as quickly as possible. All funding will be monitored by EPA's Inspector General, which will receive \$20 million for oversight and review. Announcements of grants will be posted on the Web to ensure transparency.

## Get the Latest Florida Energy Code Software

The Florida Building Commission set March 1, 2009 as the effective date of the 2008 Florida Building Code. Within the new Building Code is a requirement that buildings achieve a 15% reduction in energy use compared with the previous 2007 code. Download the new 2009 Energy Gauge software for the revised Florida Energy Code:

[Residential Version](#) or the [Commercial Version](#)

## Tallahassee & Volusia HBAs Sign MOU with FGBC

The **Tallahassee Builders Association** (TBA) led by President Mark Rodrigue and the **Volusia Home Builders Association** (Volusia) led by its president, Michael Navarra, have entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to support green building and the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) Standards. Under the agreement, each organizations agree to:

- Advocate green building and the FGBC Standards
- Advocate incentives for certified green projects
- Develop resources that educate the public about and encourage green building

Check out the [Volusia](#) or [Tallahassee](#) websites for green resources. To date, nine local HBAs have endorsed the FGBC standards.

## FLERA Conference Set for July 29

The 2009 Annual Conference of the Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies is set for July 29 - 31 at the Sarasota Hyatt Hotel. This year's theme is Sustainability & Local Government: Roles, Responsibilities & Opportunities, and will focus on local governments' role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging sustainability in government and your community, and in preparing for the impacts of climate changes in the years to come. In addition to great keynote speakers and general sessions, there will be two tracks of breakout workshops covering such topics as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, low impact development, "green" economic stimulus funding, coping mechanisms for local governments on the impacts of sea level rise, and many other sessions. Special tours of the Mote Marine Laboratory are available for Conference attendees!

FLERA is proud to invite members of our Conference Partners, the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (FAEP) and the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) to join us at the Conference at the FLERA member-rate! [\[More\]](#)

## NAHB Green Standard Earns ANSI Approval

The National Green Building Standard™ (ICC 700-2008) for all residential construction work including single-family homes, apartments and condos, land development and remodeling and renovation has been approved by the American National Standards Institute. The National Green Building Standard is the first green building rating system to be approved by ANSI.

## Product Stewardship Helps Local Governments

An international movement to improve product design by changing how recycling and waste disposal are financed is gaining momentum in North America. The movement, known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or Product Stewardship, picked up speed as two states recently introduced "framework" EPR legislation. Canada announced a nationwide framework EPR policy.

Local governments have led the push for state framework EPR legislation through Product Stewardship Councils and the adoption of "Joint Framework Principles for Product Stewardship Policy." The principles were drafted by the Northwest (Washington and Oregon) and California Product Stewardship councils. More recently, the principles were adopted by the Vermont and British Columbia local government Product Stewardship councils.

"California, Oregon, and Canada are trail-blazers in establishing comprehensive EPR legislation," said Bill Sheehan, executive director of the Product Policy Institute, which was instrumental in harmonizing the final Framework Principles and starting local government councils in California, Vermont, and Texas. "These laws will relieve the financial burden on local governments of managing difficult and toxic products and will stimulate manufacturers to design better products." [[More](#)]

### Florida Water Star Opens Public Comment Period

The St. Johns River Water Management District is seeking public comment on the upper residential tier of the Florida Water Star program, to be called Florida Water Star Gold. If you are interested in providing input on this tier, please go to [www.floridawaterstar.com](http://www.floridawaterstar.com) to review the criteria. A comment form has been provided for your use. All comments will be evaluated by staff and a final version of this tier will be published in coming weeks.

If you have any questions about this process, you may e-mail Deirdre at [dirwin@sjrwmd.com](mailto:dirwin@sjrwmd.com)

### Sustainable Florida Announces Nominees

The 11th Annual Sustainable Florida Best Practice Awards will be held June 9, 2009, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando. The event is open to the public. Congratulations to FGBC members included in the 2009 Nominees:

Kyle M. Abney

City of North Miami

City of Palm Bay Utilities Department

City of St. Petersburg (Green City Initiative)

City of Tallahassee Sustainable Partnerships

Florida Power & Light Company

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners

Southern Crafted Homes

Waste Management, Inc. of Florida

In other award news, the Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce announced that FGBC member Capitol Green Building Group has been nominated for Small Business Excellence award in the category of Green Business of the Year. Good luck to all our nominees!

**Sincerely,**

*Suzanne B. Cook, CAE*  
Executive Director

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