

March 2, 2012

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<p>Quick Links</p> <p><u>Join FGBC</u></p> <p><u>Linkedin Group</u></p> <p><u>Facebook Blog</u></p>	<p>Become a Florida Water Star Certifier</p> <p>Professional designations offer excellent opportunities for you to improve your skills, advance your career, and be recognized for your commitment to professional growth. For customers, professional designations convey superior training, practical experience, and in-depth knowledge.</p> <p>Add to your credentials by becoming a Florida Water Star certifier. With FGBC administering the Florida Water Star program in the Suwanee River and the Northwest Florida water management districts, new markets are now available for you.</p> <p>The two-day training is offered to qualified individuals as the</p>

Certification News

"Florida Green" Homes Certified

148 Homes so far in 2012
4,277 total as of
2/28/12

Local Governments City of Wellington

Certified: 2/28/12
Level: Gold
Points: 42

Education Opportunities

Bulletin on new Florida Building Code regulations for flood-prone areas
[\[More\]](#)

**March 15-16, 2012
Florida Water Star
Certifier Training**
Waccasassa Forestry
Center
5353 N.E. 39th Ave.,
Gainesville, FL 32609
[\[Register\]](#)

**March 21-22, 2012
FGBC Certifying Agent
Designation Course**
Cocoa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

**March 22, 2012
FGBC Certifying Agent
Annual Renewal
Course**
Pensacola, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

Calendar of Events

**March 7-8, 2012
GreenPrints
Conference**
Georgia Tech REsearch
Institute
Atlanta, GA
[Register](#)

**March 8 2012
FGBC Regional Event**
Brown Center @ Indian
River State College
Main Campus, Rm#
102/103 Bldg Y,
3209 Virginia Avenue,
Fort Pierce, FL 34981

first step to becoming a Florida Water Star residential certifier. Dates are March 15-16, 2012 in Gainesville. Day one of the training will be spent in classroom instruction. Day two includes a half day in the field where certifier trainees will be given hands-on instruction on the inspection process. A certifier exam is offered in the afternoon of day two. **There is no charge for the training or exam** and priority is given to those serving north Florida.

To register, contact Deirdre Irwin at dirwin@sjrwmd.com

Deirdre Irwin
St Johns River Water Management District
386-329-4500

Green Building: Be Both Environmentally & Legally Conscious

In a world of high energy prices and climate change, green building issues are becoming more common in the construction and real estate market. As green building becomes more prevalent, it is important to remember that there are legal considerations that should not be lost in the rush to change building practices. Both clients and attorneys should become familiar with the benefits and risks involved with green building. [\[More\]](#)

Energy Bill Undergoes Substantial Changes

The "modest" House energy bill containing recommendations from Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam passed, with several changes, its final committee stop on February 24. Supporters of HB 7117 say the bill will help the state create a framework for an energy policy that will encourage the expansion of renewable energy and bring jobs to the state. Putnam says the "modest" bill also is needed to show the Legislature can pass an energy bill after failing for the past three years.

HB 7117 would extend \$16 million in renewable energy tax credits, exempt electric vehicle recharging stations from being regulated as utilities, require a study of forest resources available for biomass energy and require a review of the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA) of 2008.

The bill was amended to allow utilities to recover costs for renewable energy projects by petitioning the Public Service Commission to show that those projects are in the public interest. That amendment raised concerns with the Manufacturers Association of Florida and the Florida Industrial Power Users Group, which represents large commercial power customers.

Attorney Jon Moyle, representing the Florida Industrial Power

[Register](#)

**March 10, 2012
Marion County Master
Gardeners 18th Annual
Spring Festival**

2232 NE Jacksonville Rd
Ocala, FL

[More Info](#)

**March 19-21, 2012
Power Up Energy Expo**

Pensacola Beach, FL

[Register](#)

**March 21-22, 2012
FGBC Certifying Agent
Designation Course**

Cocoa, FL

[Register](#)

**March 23, 2012
Low Impact
Development (LID)
Expo**

Twin Lakes Park
Sarasota, FL

[More](#)

**March 27-29, 2012
Energy Efficiency
Global Forum**

Peabody Hotel
Orlando, FL

[More](#)

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Articles of Interest

**Greening Interiors - What's
Important**

[\[More\]](#)

**ReGreen Offers Remodeling
Guidelines for Green
Interiors**

[\[More\]](#)

**Startup Develops Floating
Solar Farm**

[\[More\]](#)

**DuPont & SunTech Sign
Solar Agreement**

[\[More\]](#)

**Obama's 2013 Budget
Invests Billions in Clean
Energy**

[\[More\]](#)

Users Group, said utilities should have to show they need the energy produced by the renewable energy project. His group also has raised similar arguments against HB 1391, which would help the Babcock Ranch development in southwest Florida secure a solar energy project with Florida Power & Light Co.

"We think having a process whereby you look for the cheapest source of renewable energy first is a good way to go," Moyle said Friday. "Biomass is about a third cheaper than solar. For the cost of one solar energy project you can get three times as much biomass."

Another amendment by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Shalimar, would state in law that gasoline stations now can sell ethanol-free gasoline. In his HB 4013, he had proposed repealing a requirement in state law that 10 percent of gasoline contain ethanol, which some boat owners say damages small engines. The amendments were adopted and the bill passed unanimously.

ANSI Updates Standard for High Performance Buildings

A revised American National Standard has raised its benchmarks for evaluating the energy efficiency of high-performance commercial green buildings. Standard 189.1-2011, which applies to the design of high-performance, non-residential green buildings, covers criteria including a building's site sustainability, water use, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, materials and resource use, and overall environmental impact on the site and community. The most significant change in energy-related provisions is the set of updated requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings.

The revised standard sets requirements for preparing for onsite renewable energy and producing prescribed levels of renewable energy. Other changes in the 2011 standard include more stringent lighting-power density allowances, required automatic controls for lit signs visible during daytime hours to reduce lighting power, and provisions to help mitigate the heat island effect. [\[More\]](#)

EPA Releases Healthy Watersheds Initiative Tool Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a comprehensive technical document developed to help implement the Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI) by providing an overview of the key concepts behind the HWI, examples of approaches for assessing components of healthy watersheds, integrated assessment options for identifying healthy watersheds, examples of management approaches,

Federal Court Issues Mixed Ruling On Criteria for Florida Nutrient Standards
[\[More\]](#)

ULI & Greenprint Foundation Form Center for Building Performance
[\[More\]](#)

Key Changes to HARP 2.0 Help Negative Equity Mortgagees
[\[More\]](#)

Commercial Real Estate Vacancy Rates Improving, Rents Firming
[\[More\]](#)

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
10 a.m. (New Time)

Hi-Rise Residential
3rd Tuesday-monthly
11 a.m.

Homes
2nd Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m.

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

Local Government
1st Tuesday-monthly

and some assessment tools and sources of data. It summarizes efforts from across the country and could be useful in developing a highly competitive grant application for EPA funding or getting EPA to partner and support a proposal to another agency or organization. [\[More\]](#)

FGBC Certifying Agent Class Set for March 22

For FGBC Certifying Agents on "inactive" status or who are nearing their renewal date, take advantage of the easy option for satisfying your annual renewal requirements by enrolling in the next FGBC Annual Verification class schedule for March 22, 2012 in Pensacola. [\[Register\]](#)

The event coincides with the PowerUp Energy Expo taking place March 19-21 at the Hilton Pensacola Beach. Our partner, Gulf Coast Energy Network, which sponsors PowerUp, is offering FGBC members a \$50 registration discount - mention code: "FGBC-POWER." [\[Register\]](#)

House Repeals 2010 Septic Tank Inspection Requirement

The Florida House approved a bill that would repeal a statewide septic tanks inspection requirement. The Legislature in 2010 passed a requirement for statewide septic tank inspections, but the measure prompted a backlash from rural residents who viewed it as a government intrusion. The House passed a repeal bill in 2011 but the Senate did not take up the measure.

This year, HB 999 by Rep. Chris Dorworth, R-Lake Mary, attempted to strike a compromise with the Senate by requiring inspections in 19 counties with the largest first-magnitude springs, which each discharge more than 64 million gallons per day. The bill establishes restrictions on local inspection programs, and it allows those counties with first-magnitude springs to opt out of the inspections. The bill passed 105-11 and now goes to the Senate. The Senate version of the bill, SB 820, is in its final committee stop.

Oil Drilling Bill Likely Dead

A Senate committee did not take up SB 1158 during its last committee meeting of the 2012 session because of concerns raised by the governor's office. Sen. Greg Evers, the bill's sponsor, said he is unlikely to introduce the bill next year after the news media reported that he owned land surrounded by Blackwater River State Forest, where a company wants an agreement to explore and drill for oil and gas.

Evers said the governor's office raised concerns about land

10:30 a.m.

**Membership
Committee**

3rd Thursday-monthly

1 p.m.

**Programs &
Promotions**

3rd Thursday-monthly

1 p.m.

management agencies -- rather than the Cabinet -- developing agreements with oil and gas companies. A spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Scott said the governor's office had concerns that the bill would create a duplicative process to handle such issues.

**Funding
Opportunities**

**Marine and Coastal
Habitat Restoration**

Due 4-13-12

[\[More\]](#)

**DOE Funding
Programs**

DOE has wide range of funding programs available for renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.

Check out these websites for eligibility and details:

[Loan Programs](#)

[Geothermal](#)

[Solar](#)

[Wind & Water](#)