

November 29, 2010

Orlando Named as Test Market for Electric Vehicles

Ford Motor Company named the first U.S. markets - 20 cities-to sell its new Focus Electric when it debuts in late 2011. The Focus Electric's motor will be powered by a 23-kwh lithium-ion battery and will have a system that uses liquid heating and cooling system to maximize battery life and driving range. The Focus, Ford's first all-electric passenger car, is designed to travel 100 miles on a full charge.

The initial markets include Atlanta; Austin and Houston, Texas; Boston; Chicago; Denver; Detroit; Los Angeles; San Francisco; San Diego; New York; Orlando, Florida; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; Raleigh Durham, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; Seattle; and Washington, D.C. The automaker said the initial markets for the electric vehicle (EV) were picked because of criteria such as existing hybrid purchase trends, utility company collaboration, and local government commitment to electrification.

64 Percent of Electric Vehicle Charge Points in the United States to be Residential Units

The adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) over the next several years will be accompanied by a significant buildout of EV charging infrastructure including public, private, workplace, and residential charging equipment. A recent report from Pike Research forecasts that a total of 4.7 million charge points will be installed globally during the period from 2010 to 2015, however the firm expects that the mix of charging station types will vary significantly by region. Unique among EV markets, the United States will be led by residential charging units, which will represent 64% of the country's 974,000 charge points to be installed by 2015.

"Compared to the rest of the world, a greater percentage of U.S. electric vehicle owners will live in single-family homes," says senior analyst John Gartner.

EPA Seeks Public Comments on "Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols" for Home Energy Upgrades

EPA is developing voluntary Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades in conjunction with the Department of Energy (DOE) Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades. The EPA protocols and DOE guidelines are intended for voluntary adoption by weatherization assistance programs, federally funded housing programs, private sector home performance contracting organizations, and others working on residential retrofit or remodeling efforts. [[EPA Protocols](#)] [[DOE Workforce Guidelines](#)]

Florida DCA Secretary Pelham Resigns

Secretary Tom Pelham of the Florida Department of Community Affairs has announced that he will be leaving the department at the end of Governor Crist's term of office. His resignation is effective at the close of business January 3, 2011.

Nearly Half of all Green Building Certifications will be for Existing Buildings by 2020

A recent [report](#) released by Pike Research indicates green building certifications are quickly becoming the standard for the construction industry. While green building certification programs are well-known for their importance in new construction projects, this recent report forecasts that by 2020, nearly half the total certified footprint - 25 billion square feet - will comprise certifications for existing buildings. Existing buildings are typically filled with opportunities to save energy and improve occupant comfort. Existing building commissioning, sometimes referred to as retro-commissioning, is the most direct way to find those opportunities and capitalize on them. Retro-commissioning (RCx) is a systematic, documented process that identifies low-cost operational and maintenance improvements and brings the buildings up to the design intentions of its current usage.

"As the new construction market has slowed during the global recession, green building certifications for existing buildings have become an increasing area of focus," says research analyst Eric Bloom. "Green building has remained robust during the recession, and with evidence that real estate is picking up worldwide, green building is poised for even stronger growth in the next few years. In addition, while financing for energy efficient retrofits remains hard to come by in many regions, green building is being bolstered by its ability to differentiate a building in a tough real estate market." [[Executive Summary](#)]

FECC Meeting Set for Dec 8

The Florida Energy & Climate Commission will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 1:00 p.m. - until completion. Staff will conduct the meeting from the Cabinet Meeting Room, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL, where members of the public are invited to attend. Members of the public are also invited to listen to the call, but

due to noise consideration are asked to dial-in from a land line and keep their phone lines muted until the public comment section of the agenda. The dial-in number is (866) 233-5216 and the conference code is 5654699. Meeting materials will be available on the Commission's Web site prior to the meeting. [\[More\]](#)

FARE 2011 Renewable Energy Tour Planned

The Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy (FARE) will host the 2011 Renewable Energy Tour February 15-25, 2011. The tour will travel through cities across the state and provides opportunity to learn about renewable energy policy, interact with your elected officials and be part of the sweeping grassroots movement that will bring Florida in to the renewable energy future.

The tour will feature the roll out of a comprehensive energy bill to be introduced in the 2011 Legislative Session, and feature industry and policy experts along with local elected officials. Prior to each event, the tour will feature visits to local solar and renewable energy installations. Event coordinators are needed in each city. If you are interested in being an event coordinator or volunteer, please email info@fareenergy.org. For a list of cities on the tour, visit the [FARE website](#).

Installed PV Capacity to Grow Tenfold by 2016

Historically, building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) have been relegated to a niche market because solar modules and panels have simply cost too much and have been too difficult to install on residential and commercial roofs as well as building walls, windows, and other parts of the building structure. Additionally, production of BIPV products with appealing aesthetics has been limited. However, according to a new report, BIPV and building-applied photovoltaics (BAPV) market dynamics will change beginning in 2010, and forecasts are that installed capacity will grow more than tenfold by 2016, approaching 2.4 gigawatts (GW) worldwide in that year compared to just 215 megawatts (MW) in 2009. This growth will generate annual wholesale market revenues of \$4 billion by 2016, under a base case scenario.

"Rapidly falling cost per watt will be a major driver of BIPV and BAPV installations in the coming years," says Pike Research senior analyst Dave Cavanaugh. "In addition, rooftop installations are becoming much easier with the market entry of new, high-efficiency CIGS-technology panels and shingles. At the same time, the aesthetic appeal of BIPV and BAPV is improving with the introduction of solar crystalline-silicon modules and thin film tiles and shingles that blend into building facades, atria and rooftops." [\[More\]](#)

Local & State Code Officials Back IECC 2012

Local and state building code officials recently approved revisions to the commercial section of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) that represent the largest single-step efficiency increase in the history of the national energy code, officials said. The improvements were part of a major comprehensive proposal submitted jointly by DOE, the nonprofit New Buildings Institute (NBI), and the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The proposal addresses measures such as cooling, lighting, quality assurance, and renewable energy standards. The changes mean that new and renovated buildings constructed in jurisdictions that follow the 2012 IECC model will use 30 percent less energy than those built to current standards.

The 2012 IECC will serve as the baseline standard for the International Green Construction Code currently under development. Additionally, the 2012 IECC contains many first-ever technical features, including a new section on commissioning, pathways to use daylighting, and options for the use of on-site renewable energy. It will be published in April 2011 for adoption by state and local agencies. [\[More\]](#)

Green Builder® Coalition Unveiled

Green Builder® Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving balance between the built and natural environments, announces its recent formation. The Coalition has been created as a new platform to provide a common voice for those devoted to sustainable living. Committed to authenticity and transparency, the grassroots organization will offer a single class of individual membership and is open to everyone.

"We welcome anyone who is interested in sustainable living and development to become a member of the Coalition," says Mike Collignon, co-founder and Executive Director of Green Builder® Coalition. "We look forward to working with a wide range of individuals and collaborating with a diverse set of organizations to enhance the level of sustainability in the U.S."

Through an agreement with Green Builder® Media, the Coalition will provide complimentary subscriptions to Green Builder® magazine, discounted tuition to Green Builder® College, and access to valuable educational resources, ensuring that members have the latest information about national policy, codes, regulations, building science, products, trends, and other key issues.

Founding Board members include Ingrid Mattsson of Uponor, Joanne Theunissen of Howling Hammer Builders, Scott Palmer of Salt River Materials Group, and Richard Morgan of Austin Energy's Green Building

Program. [[Email](#) for more info]

Energy Efficiency Tax Credits end Dec 31

Homeowners have one more month to take advantage of tax credits that can help them save energy and reduce their utility bills with more energy-efficient windows and doors, insulation, and heating and cooling equipment.

The tax credit for efficiency upgrades in existing homes (Internal Revenue Code Section 25C) is available for 30 percent of the cost, up to a \$1,500 limit for 2009 and 2010, for the installation of certain types of insulation, windows, roofs, water heaters, heat pumps, air conditioners and furnaces. Details on the kinds of products that qualify and instructions for obtaining the credit are available at www.nahb.org/efficiencytaxcredit.

A tax credit available under tax code section 25D is also available for equipment that uses renewable energy, such as wind, solar, geothermal or fuel cells. Like the 25C credit, the 25D credit can be used for up to 30 percent of the cost of qualifying products, but there is no lifetime limit and the program does not expire until the end of 2016. [[More](#)]

St. Augustine Educators Hope Program Will Spur Careers in Green Energy

Pedro Menendez is one of eight schools in the state to get a Next Generation Solar Education Station photovoltaic installation from FPL. According to Maureen Wilt, FPL education program manager, Menendez was chosen because "Not only did they have a great science department, but they had this great construction academy," she said.

The FPL Next Generation Solar Education Station program provides solar installations to selected schools in the FPL service area. These installations use photovoltaic (PV) cells to generate electricity that is delivered to the electric grid. Other schools receiving the stations are:

- Hinson Middle School (Volusia)
- J.D. Parker Elementary School (Martin)
- Mandarin K-8 Center (Miami-Dade)
- L.A. Ainger Middle School (Charlotte)
- Deerfield Beach Middle School (Broward)
- Suncoast High School (Palm Beach)
- Edison Ford Winter Estates (Lee)
- Pedro Menendez High School (St. Johns)
- Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida (Palm Beach)
- Suwannee County School District (Suwannee)