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Tarpon Springs Earns Green Recertification

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) has recertified the city of Tarpon Springs as a Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government five-year recertification program. Tarpon Springs achieved 34.2 percent of its 357 applicable points, earning it a silver-level designation. It is the third local government, along with Pinellas County and the city of Tallahassee to complete the recertification process.



In order to achieve recertification, Tarpon Springs staff lead by Police Captain Jeff Young undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department. From there, teams used FGBC's program tools to identify methods to improve the sustainability of their business practices and operations.

One goal of the Florida Green Local Government Standard is for the local government to "lead by example" and to encourage the private sector to apply the same principles through the creation of green homes, green commercial buildings, and green land developments. Bringing together community businesses and residents with common objectives and overlapping interests can lead to integrated environmental solutions to local issues.

[\[See more of Tarpon Springs' Green Achievements\]](#)

Flood Insurance Rate Hike Drowns Floridians

Flood insurance premiums will shoot up for thousands of Florida businesses and homeowners starting October 1, 2013, sparking fears that the rate spike will thwart home sales and erode property values in many of the state's low-lying communities.

Flood-prone Florida will be the hardest-hit state because it is home to more than 2 million policyholders (37 percent of the nation's policy holders).

Most will pay a little more for insurance. But some owners of property in high-risk areas - such as older oceanfront condos

[Earn Cash Back with FGBC Rewards Program](#)

Articles of Interest

Neal Communities Named FGBC Builder of the Year

[\[More\]](#)

Sarasota Builder Recognized for Green Building Practices

[\[More\]](#)

Building Green Saves A Lot of Money

[\[More\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

National & State Green Building Funding Opportunities [\[More\]](#)

Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

[Linkedin Group](#)

[Facebook Blog](#)

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Certification Counts

"Florida Green" Certifications To Date Homes

1,003 Homes in 2013
6,798 total as of 9/27/13

Commercial Buildings

Registered: 26
Certified: 8

Hi-Rise

Registered: 9
Certified: 2

Land Development

Registered: 61
Certified: 12

Local Government

Registered: 68
Certified: 48

Multi-Family

or inland homes on the banks of streams or rivers - face an increase of thousands of dollars a year for flood insurance that mortgage lenders require them to buy.

Craig Fugate, a Floridian who leads the Federal Emergency Management Agency that runs the program, told a Senate panel that yearly flood insurance premiums for a home in the lowest parts of a flood plain could cost as much as 10 percent of the home's total value. That means \$25,000 a year for a \$250,000 home.

A bill passed by Congress last year to reform the National Flood Insurance Program is having unintended consequences, creating a complicated mix of winners and losers and a lot of confusion. Faced with mounting complaints, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and other Floridians are urging a delay or change of the law. But those efforts appear doomed before the law takes full effect Oct. 1. [\[More\]](#)

Project Spotlights:

Stag Horn Villas

Habitat Greater Orlando's First Multi-Family Community



Habitat Greater Orlando has completed its most ambitious home building effort to date: Stag Horn Villas, an \$8 million, 58-townhome community is the organization's first multifamily development, but also its most green and energy-efficient.

Stag Horn's townhomes received all the major green certifications, including ENERGY STAR for energy efficiency, Florida Water Star^(sm) for water conservation, and Florida Green Home Certification from the Florida Green Building Coalition for comprehensive affordability and sustainability. The community, overall, received the Florida Friendly Landscaping Program recognition.

All of the homes feature: R-30 insulation; low VOC paint; recyclable fiber carpet; compact fluorescent lighting fixtures; ENERGY STAR refrigerators and front load washers; white roof shingles; environmentally friendly Boracare termite treatment; Florida friendly landscaping, including drought-resistant plants and Bahia sod; Fertigator fertilizing system (made with fish protein and injected into the drip irrigation water system); low-e double-pane windows; 14-SEER heat pump systems; monitored fire sprinklers throughout and burglar alarm systems.

In 2013
10 Buildings
196 Units

Recent Certifications

Gables 4585 Ponce
High-Rise Residential
250 Units and
30,000+ sf of retail &
commercial space
Score: 52
Certified: 9/5/13

City of Tarpon Springs

Level: Silver
Score: 34
Certified: 8/20/13

**Florida Water Star
Certifications
NFWMD and SRWMD
Areas**
7 Homes

Education Opportunities

1000 Friends of Florida
**Free monthly
webinars**
[\[More\]](#)

November 15, 2013
**FGBC Certifying Agent
Annual Verification
Course**
Gainesville, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

Calendar of Events

October 14-15, 2013
**Florida Energy
Summit**
Rosen Shingle Creek
Orlando, Florida
[More](#)

October 16-17, 2013
Sea Level Rise Summit
Fort Lauderdale
[More](#)

October 16-19, 2013
FHBA Fall Conference
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay
Tampa, FL
[More](#)

October 23-25, 2013
**FLERA Annual
Conference**
Embassy Suites Orlando -
Lake Buena Vista South
Kissimmee, FL
[More](#)

According to Director of Construction Terry Eckert, Habitat Greater Orlando's next project, Butler's Preserve, will consist of 51 single-family homes and four duplexes of eight units each for a total of 59 homes. The community will seek FGBC Land Development certification, while each residential unit will seek both FGBC Florida Green Home and Florida Water Star certifications. [\[More\]](#)

Lennar at ChampionsGate Commits To Florida Water Star Certification



This master planned community will include 2,500 homes that will meet Florida Water Star criteria. The homes feature three to six bedrooms and include a carefully designed landscape to insure water savings for the homeowner. The homes also feature various energy saving features. To date 60 homes have received the Florida Water Star certification. [\[More Florida Water Star News\]](#)

Energy Prize Offers \$5 Million to Local Communities

The Energy Department and Georgetown University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement to collaborate on the "Georgetown University Energy Prize," a competition to encourage innovative, replicable and scalable approaches to reducing energy use in communities across the United States.

Beginning in February 2014, U.S. municipalities ranging in population from 5,000-250,000 residents will be eligible to compete for the prize by reducing their energy use. Participating communities must develop a long-term energy efficiency plan and demonstrate initial effectiveness and sustainability during a two-year period.

The winning community will receive \$5 million provided by private sponsors, which will help to support their continuing community-based energy efficiency efforts. Interested parties are invited to learn more about Georgetown Energy Prize, review the competition's rules and timeline, and register their communities in advance of the formal launch in February. [\[More\]](#)

**November 4-8, 2013
ARCSA Annual
Conference**

Austin Convention
Center
Austin, Tx
[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
4 p.m.

GreenTrends

4th Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Hi-Rise

3rd Tuesday
Monthly
11 a.m.

Homes

2nd Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

4th Wednesday
Bi-monthly
4 p.m.

Local Government

1st Tuesday
Monthly
10:30 a.m.

**Membership and
Programs &
Promotions**

(Joint Meeting)
1st Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

ARCSA and ASPE Develop Water Reuse Standards

The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) and American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE) have joined forces to develop two American National Standards related to water reuse, using ASPE's ANSI-accredited standards development process.

ARCSA/ASPE 63: Rainwater Catchment Systems is currently undergoing a final review before submission to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for approval as an American National Standard. The standard was first published in 2009 and has been adopted into the IAPMO Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement and the 2012 National Standard Plumbing Code published by NAPHCC. ARCSA/ASPE 63 is designed to assist engineers, designers, plumbers, builders/developers, local government, and end users in safely implementing a rainwater catchment system using precipitation from a rooftop and other hard, impervious surfaces. The standard is being co-sponsored by the International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and NSF International.

A first draft of ARCSA/ASPE 78: Stormwater Harvesting Systems for Direct and Indirect End-Use Applications is being developed by a working group comprised of ARCSA and ASPE members as well as individuals from the irrigation industry and several U.S. municipalities. ARCSA and ASPE identified the need for a stormwater use standard due to growing concerns about available water supplies, combined sewer overflows, and watershed pollution in many parts of the country. The new standard will establish requirements for designing post-construction alternative stormwater systems in lieu of potable water systems for new and redeveloped projects, including source control methods, site design parameters, stormwater treatment methods, and system maintenance.

For more information on either of these standards, contact ASPE Director of Publications & Standards, Gretchen Pienta, at gpienta@aspe.org

Sherwin-Williams & PPG Settle FTC Green Washing Charges

Two of the nation's leading paint companies, The Sherwin-Williams Company and PPG Architectural Finishes, Inc., have agreed to settle Federal Trade Commission charges that they misled consumers to believe that some of their paints are free of potentially harmful chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The two companies agreed to settlements with the FTC

requiring them to stop making the allegedly deceptive claim that their Dutch Boy Refresh and Pure Performance interior paints, respectively, contain "zero" volatile organic compounds. According to the agency, while this may be true for the uncolored "base" paints, it is not true for tinted paint, which typically has much higher levels of the compounds, and which consumers usually buy. [\[More\]](#)

Solar Panels Becoming Standard Option For Homes

Solar panels are the next granite countertops: an amenity for new homes that's becoming a standard option for buyers in U.S. markets. At least six of the 10 largest U.S. home builders include photovoltaic devices in new construction, according to supplier SunPower Corp. (SPWR) Demand for the systems that generate electricity at home will jump 56 percent nationwide this year, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. [\[More\]](#)

Job Opportunity: Energy Management Specialist

St. Johns County School District has a position available for an Energy Management Control Specialist whose responsibilities are to monitor, maintain and troubleshoot energy management control systems, plus to provide technical work in maintaining a website and supporting complex computer systems. [\[More\]](#)

Duke Energy Natural Gas Plant Planned for Citrus Co.

Duke Energy plans to issue a request for proposals Oct. 8 for construction of a new natural gas plant in Citrus County to replace the power lost by its shuttered nuclear facility. The plant will be a highly efficient, combined-cycle, natural gas unit with 1,640 megawatts of capacity starting operation in 2018.

The decision to build the natural gas plant in Citrus County means at least some jobs will return to a community that lost hundreds with the closing of the Crystal River nuclear plant. [\[More\]](#)

TRENDSETTERS: Making a Difference

Chicago Requires Use of Portfolio Manager

The city of Chicago has adopted the Chicago Energy Use Benchmarking Ordinance, which requires approximately 3,500 commercial, residential, and municipal buildings over 50,000 square feet to track their energy consumption using the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's free Portfolio Manager web tool.

Covered buildings will report energy use data annually to the city, with the largest buildings (>250,000 square feet) being required to comply first, by June 2014, and buildings between 50,000 and 250,000 square feet reporting one year later. Residential buildings within each of those groups will have an extra year to comply. The ordinance allows the city to publicly disclose individual building energy performance starting in June 2015.

ACEEE Releases City Energy Efficiency Scorecard Ranks Cities of Energy Efficiency Efforts

A new report from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) ranks America's 34 largest cities on what they are doing to save energy and costs in five key areas: Local government; community initiatives; buildings, energy; water, utilities & public benefits programs; and, transportation. Of the Florida cities graded, Miami ranked #27 with a score of 32, followed by Tampa at #30 with a score of 26.75, and Jacksonville at #34 with a score of 17.25. Nationwide, scores ranged between 17.25 (lowest) and 76.75 (highest), with 100 being the top target. Check out this very cool interactive report for best practices by each city. Miami was recognized for its cool roof and cool pavement policies. [\[More\]](#)

Housing Starts, Permits Reach Five-year High

Single-family housing starts and permits for future construction hit a five-year high in August, signaling that the housing market continues to recover despite higher mortgage rates and declines in new multifamily development, Reuters reported Sept. 18.

Single-family housing starts were up 7 percent in August to an annual rate of 628,000 units - the highest increase in six months, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Single-family homes account for the largest segment of the market.

New construction for apartments and condominiums, however, declined 11.1 percent in August, which retarded growth in total housing starts to an 891,000-unit pace and fell short of the 917,000-unit rate expected by economists.

Permits for multifamily homes also fell 15.7 percent in August, pushing down overall permits 3.8 percent to a 918,000-unit pace. [\[More\]](#)

Conservation Amendment Headed to Florida Ballot

The Florida Supreme Court cleared the way for voters to

decide in November 2014 if the state Constitution should be amended to require a portion of existing stamp tax revenues set aside to preserve natural areas.

The amendment sets aside one-third of the existing documentary stamp tax (paid when real estate is sold) to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources, and fund the state projects to protect natural lands and wildlife habitat through the Florida Forever program. The amendment would generate \$19 billion over 20 years, according to the state Financial Impact Estimating Conference.

Hotels Becoming Electric Car Friendly

As hotels seek to attract more eco-friendly travelers, some are installing battery charging stations for guests with electric and hybrid cars. Joining the growing sustainable effort is the PGA National Resort & Spa, which is installing charging stations for plug-in vehicles. Resort guests can also rent an all-electric Nissan Leaf from Enterprise Rent-A-Car during their stay, which will give them a chance to try out the new technology.

PGA National's sustainable practices include recycling, a guest room energy management system, and water efficiency measures. The state's Department of Environmental Protection has designated the resort a Florida Green Lodging property since 2007. [[More](#)]

FGBC Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents

New Members:

-**Nelson Roy**, Nelson B. Roy AIA, Architect, Sarasota, FL

Earn Cash Back with FGBC Rewards Program



Top FGBC membership recruiter Randy Conn (*right*), receives \$220 in membership rewards from FGBC staff Kimberly Walker.

Membership rewards will be applied to each recruiters' 2013 dues renewal. Look for YOUR bonus on your next statement.

-
[FGBC Membership Rewards Rankings as of 9/30/13:](#)

Kyle Abney	2
Gary Carmack	3
Lee Combs	1
Randy Conn	14
Suzanne Cook	5
John Crum	1
Tracy DeCarlo	1
Jason Helvenston	1
Deirdre Irwin	1
Bill Lazar	1
Doug Poirier	3
Nate Ritter	2
Marc Rutenberg	1
Drew Smith	2
Joe Weaver	2

The Florida Green Building Coalition Membership Committee implemented a "Cash Back" rewards program this year. For every new member recruited, the sponsoring FGBC member earns 10 percent of the new member's annual membership fee. Rewards are applied to the sponsor's annual renewal. Check the FGBC website for details and to download a membership application and Rewards flyer.

Certifying Agents this is a no-brainer for you. Every time you contract for certification services, be sure to include an FGBC membership in your contract price. Fill out the membership form and submit with payment to FGBC to earn your rewards. [[More](#)]

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cook, CAE
FGBC Executive Director