



March 23, 2012

## Save the Date



Our annual GreenTrends Conference is moving to the Fall, so mark your calendars!

**GreenTrends 2012  
Sept 12-14, 2012**

PGA National Resort  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

[www.GreenTrends.org](http://www.GreenTrends.org)

## Project Spotlight

### Dolce Vita Verde Makeover Lives Up to Hardwick Professionalism

Greg Hardwick, owner of Hardwick GC in Maitland, is known throughout the industry for his professionalism and commitment to quality. His Dolce Vita Verde remodel lives up to that reputation. The whole-house "green" remodel was the first Florida Green Building Coalition platinum-level certified home. It also earned Energy Star and Florida Water Star certifications. From a deteriorating home to an exquisite, high-performing green home, Dolce Vita Verde walks the talk. [Take a tour.](#)

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## South Florida Leads Remodeling Spending

According to the National Association of Home Builders, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties rank in the top five in the South for the highest total estimated county spending on home remodeling. The average value across all counties nationwide for total remodeling expenditures per year is \$66 million, with the southern states ranking as follows:

1. Miami-Dade County, Florida - \$1.7 billion
2. Harris County, Texas - \$1.6 billion
3. Broward County, Florida - \$1.5 billion
4. Fairfax County, Virginia - \$1.4 billion
5. Palm Beach County, Florida - \$1.3 billion

Monroe County, Fla. ranked fourth in the South for the highest estimated spending per owner-occupied home (\$5,600).

## Re-Tuning Commercial Buildings - Free Training Offered

The U.S. Department of Energy (US DOE) has announced the availability of an online training course to help building owners, operators, and contractors "re-tune" commercial buildings. Building operators can re-tune their facilities to improve energy efficiency by first collecting and analyzing data from their buildings' automation systems to identify energy-wasting operational problems. They can then adjust their automated control systems to correct inefficiencies at low or no cost, saving them money on their energy bills.

[Commercial Green Lease Guide and Toolkit Available](#)

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## Certification News

### "Florida Green" Homes Certified

554 Homes so far in 2012  
4,683 total as of  
3/23/12

**Hi-Rise**  
**Progresso Point**  
Certified: 3/9/12  
Level: N/A  
Points: 55

## Education Opportunities

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

**April 4-6, 2012 Green Future Viral Conference**  
Webinar  
[\[More\]](#)

**June 20, 2012 FGBC Certifying Agent Annual Renewal Course**  
Sarasota, FL  
[\[Register\]](#)

**August 14-15, 2012 FGBC Certifying Agent**

Commercial buildings, which use about 20 percent of the energy consumed in the United States, waste up to 30 percent of that energy through improper and inefficient operations. Most large commercial buildings use building automation systems to operate heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and other components, but frequently these automated systems aren't properly commissioned or operated, resulting in costly inefficiencies.

The training currently focuses on large commercial buildings greater than 100,000 square feet, but the concepts and techniques presented during the course can be applied to any type and size of facility equipped with a building automation system. [\[More\]](#) [\[DOE Training Portal\]](#)

## Water Quality Rules Cost Underestimated by Billions

A National Research Council study says a federal agency underestimated the cost of a proposed federal water quality rule in Florida. Scientists say Florida's waterways have become choked with weeds and algae. They say nitrogen and phosphorus from a variety of sources are to blame.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency created an uproar in August 2009 when it signed a court agreement with environmental groups to set nitrogen and phosphorus limits that industry groups said are expensive and difficult to meet. The federal EPA in 2010 estimated the cost of complying with it at \$135 million to \$206 million. But the Cardno Entrix consulting firm, hired by utilities and industry groups, estimated the maximum costs as ranging from \$3.4 billion to \$4.7 billion.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimated the cost as high as \$12 billion, according to the NRC, while citing uncertainties about how the federal rules would be implemented. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimated the cost at \$900 million and \$1.6 billion just for agricultural operations.

The National Research Council says the Environmental Protection Agency took the right approach by measuring the difference in cost between Florida's existing rules and the proposed "numeric nutrient criteria" established by the federal agency. But the NRC also found that costs were significantly underestimated in several areas. The EPA responded with a statement saying that the NRC study provides "valuable information" on the differences between the cost studies.

"EPA is already incorporating some of the report's findings and recommendations for the economic analysis and is considering how it can inform future potential analyses," the statement said.

**Designation Course**  
(To become a Certifying Agent)  
Florida Solar Energy Center  
1679 Clearlake Road  
Cocoa, FL  
[\[Register\]](#)

#### Calendar of Events

**March 27-29, 2012**  
**Energy Efficiency Global Forum**  
Peabody Hotel  
Orlando, FL  
[More](#)

**April 29 - May 1, 2012**  
**NAHB Green Building Conference**  
Renaissance Nashville Hotel  
Nashville, TN  
[Register](#)

**May 17-19, 2012**  
**American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2012 National Convention and Design Exposition**  
Washington, DC  
[Register](#)

**June 2-7, 2012**  
**BOAF (Building Officials-Florida) 2012 Conference & Tradeshow**  
Walt Disney World Hilton  
Lake Buena Vista, FL  
[Register](#)

**Sept 12-14, 2012**  
**GreenTrends 2012**  
PGA National Resort  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
[www.GreenTrends.org](http://www.GreenTrends.org)

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#### Articles of Interest

**Putnam Releases Florida Energy Report**  
[\[More\]](#)

**FGBC Committee Meetings**

The NRC did not offer its own cost estimates because it was not asked to do so by the EPA, which sought the review at the request of U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Melbourne. [\[More\]](#)

## White House 2013 Budget Focuses on Sustainable Energy, Transportation

The President's FY 2013 budget request for the Department of Energy (DOE) would increase funding over 2012 enacted levels by 3.2 percent to \$27.2 billion. The proposed budget increases funding for clean energy, research and development, and advanced manufacturing. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) would receive \$2.3 billion; an increase of more than 29 percent from 2012 enacted levels.

The President's FY 2013 Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy budget request for DOE includes:

- \$91.2 million increase in the Vehicle Technologies program (28 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$90.8 million increase in the Building Technologies program (41 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations). For more details, see "Energy-Efficient / Sustainable Buildings Programs" section below.
- \$21.0 million increase in the Solar Energy program (7 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$70.7 million increase in the Biomass and Biorefinery R&D program (35 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations). For more details, see "USDA/DOE Bioenergy Programs" section below.
- \$67.0 million increase in the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Activities program (52 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$27.1 million increase in the Geothermal program (72 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$1.7 million increase in the Wind Energy program (2 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$174 million increase in the Advanced Manufacturing (formerly Industrial Technologies) program (151 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$2.1 million increase in the Federal Energy Management Program (7 percent increase from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$38.8 million decrease in the Water Power program (66 percent decrease from FY 2012 appropriations).
- \$23.6 million decrease in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies programs (23 percent decrease from FY 2012 appropriations).

[\[Fact Sheet\]](#) [\[EERE Chart\]](#)

**DOE Seeks Comments on Multifamily Energy Upgrade Guide**

**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  
2 p.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  
10:30 a.m.

**Membership  
Committee**  
3rd Thursday-monthly  
4 p.m. (New Time)

**Programs &  
Promotions**  
3rd Thursday-monthly  
4 p.m. (New Time)

## Funding Opportunities

**Marine and Coastal  
Habitat Restoration**  
Due 4-13-12  
[\[More\]](#)

## DOE Funding Programs

DOE has wide range of funding programs available for

The U.S. Dept of Energy (DOE) is requesting manufacturers of energy-efficient products, public housing authorities, industry stakeholders involved in the development, finance, and maintenance of multifamily properties, and others in the home performance industry to review and comment on "Standard Work Specifications for Multifamily Energy Upgrades." Developed under DOE's Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals project, the specifications are voluntary guidelines that outline minimum requirements for high-quality energy upgrades in multifamily homes. The industry review period will remain open through May 4, 2012. [\[More\]](#) [\[Guidelines\]](#)

## Commercial Green Lease Guide and Toolkit Available

The U.S. Department of Energy (US DOE) recently launched the Green Lease Library, an online resource to help the commercial building sector implement "green leases"-rental agreements that encourage energy efficiency.

Green leases, also known as energy-aligned leases, high performance leases, or energy efficient leases, encourage the building owner and tenant to save energy and implement sustainable practices by distributing the benefits and costs of energy efficiency upgrades between building owner and tenant. These leases use modified lease clauses to align the financial interests of building owners and tenants so both have an incentive to save energy and make cost-effective upgrades. This can help both tenants and landlords to save money, conserve resources, extend the lifetime of equipment, and operate more efficiently.

To support the launch, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will host a webinar on Monday, March 26, to provide guidance and strategies for using green leases and to answer questions from participants. The webinar will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. [\[More\]](#)

## Home Depot Hosts Online Green Products Database

The Home Depot has launched an online green home products database. The database is a special microsite within [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com) that features products geared toward green home building, many of which may contribute towards earning green certification points, making it easier for homeowners and builders to find the products they need. Currently, more than 2,500 products sold at The Home Depot are listed on the website. [\[More\]](#)

## Appraisal Board Seeks Green Experts to Develop Guidelines

The Appraisal Practices Board (APB) has issued a Solicitation for Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to assist in the research and development of voluntary guidance on the Valuation of Green Buildings - Background Competence. For more information on the background and qualifications required to

renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.

Check out these websites for eligibility and details:

[Loan Programs](#)

[Geothermal](#)

[Solar](#)

[Wind & Water](#)

**DOE Funding Announcements**  
[\[More\]](#)

**DOE Solar Funding**  
Due 5-29-12  
[\[More\]](#)

**DOE Announces \$5.2 Million for Improved Building Efficiency Technologies**  
[\[More\]](#)

be considered for the Subject Matter Expert panel, please review the solicitation: [\[More\]](#)

## Zero Energy America Showcase Home Debuts

Taking the "how to" out of the labs and into the field, Marc Rutenberg Homes has announced the June 2012 grand opening of the first of its Zero Energy America homes. The home, located in the Hawks Landing community of Palm Harbor, FL, is the first in a series of four homes that Rutenberg is building as a part of his Zero Energy America project. The project culminates in the production of the Zero Energy America documentary film, which delves into the exciting and contentious topic of sustainability in the housing industry. Built to the extreme of zero energy and green building, the ZEA home is designed for FGBC Platinum, LEED Platinum, and NGBS Emerald, and is expected to achieve a negative HERS index. [\[More\]](#)