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## FGBC Certified Homes Exceed 4,000

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) announced that home certifications surpassed the 4,000 mark recently, making its residential standard the leading certification program in the state.

The multi-family sector is driving the momentum for FGBC certifications in 2011, with South Florida and Central Florida markets showing the most activity.

Winter Park Construction, K.Hovnanian, William Ryan Homes, Homes by Westbay, Habitat for Humanity, Neal Communities, Premier Construction (Tallahassee), Poinciana Royale Associates, and Pinnacle Housing Group are leading the surge.

## SAVE Act Would Include Energy Costs in Home Value

A new, bipartisan effort on Capitol Hill could, for the first time, put energy costs and savings squarely into standard mortgage underwriting equations. A bill introduced Oct. 20 would force the big three mortgage agencies (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration, who together account for more than 90 percent of all loan volume) to take account of energy costs in every loan they insure, guarantee or buy. It would also require them to instruct appraisers to adjust their property valuations upward when accurate data on energy efficiency savings are available.

Titled the SAVE Act (Sensible Accounting to Value Energy), the bill is jointly sponsored by Sens. Michael Bennet, a Democrat from Colorado, and Johnny Isakson, a Republican from Georgia. Here's how it would work: Along with the traditional principal, interest, taxes and insurance (PITI) calculations, estimated energy-consumption expenses for the house would be included as a mandatory new underwriting factor. [[More](#)]

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## Certification News

**"Florida Green" Homes 4,008 as of 11/2/11**

**Village of Pinecrest Certified: 11/9/11  
Level: Silver  
Points: 23%**

**City of Dunedin Upgrades to Gold  
Date: 10/6/11  
Points: 47%**

## Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

[Linkedin Group](#)

[Facebook Blog](#)

## Calendar

**November 16, 2011**

**Green Utilities**  
(Webinar - **FREE**)  
10 a.m.

Features national and state experts on energy options and cooperative strategies for green results. To include how communities and power-companies can engage in a joint mission to tap clean energy sources, boost energy efficiency, create green jobs and bolster area-economies. For details on this and other timely resources.

[Register](#)

**November 30, 2011**

**It's OK to Use a Cheat Sheet! An Appraiser's Perspective on Getting the Value for Energy Efficient Homes**

## Webinar Explains Model Specs for LED Streetlights

On November 15, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will host a 90-minute live webcast on new recommendations for implementing energy-saving street lighting projects. Called the "Model Specification for LED Roadway Luminaries", the new guidelines were developed by members of DOE's Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium to assist cities, utilities, and other local agencies in selecting and securing the LED - or light emitting diode - lighting solutions that are best for them. The model specification was developed with feedback from a manufacturers' working group and can help organizations save money and energy by converting their street and roadway lighting to LED technology. The webcast will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. EST and will include a 60-minute presentation, followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session with attendees.

[\[Register\]](#) [\[More\]](#)

## Study Shows Savings of Retrofitting

*Provided by Paul M. Thompson, CAE, MIRM  
Florida Home Builders Association*

While the practice of retrofitting buildings with energy-conserving technology like efficient boilers, high-quality windows, and compact fluorescent light bulbs has been around for years, data on whether these changes result in any real savings has been virtually nonexistent. Now, a new study shows that these relatively straightforward fixes can significantly reduce spending on fuel and electricity. Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, a philanthropic arm of the German bank, and Living Cities, a nonprofit partnership of 22 foundations and financial institutions, commissioned the report, which will be released later this month. It examined nearly 19,000 affordable housing units in New York City that had undergone energy efficiency retrofits and found that these changes resulted in a 19 percent savings on fuel bills and a 10 percent savings on electricity across the portfolio. This translates into \$240 in fuel savings and \$70 in electrical savings per apartment every year. "We have been looking for the secret sauce," said Ben Hecht, the president and chief executive of Living Cities. "This study is definitely the first foray into data, and that is going to be critical to convince owners and lenders of the importance of retrofitting buildings."

## FL DEP Proposes New Water Quality Rules

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection

(Webinar)  
12:30 p.m. (EST)  
Recently, the Appraisal Institute issued an addendum that allows appraisers to identify and describe a home's green and energy efficiency features. This webinar will provide an overview of the Green & Energy Efficiency Addendum -- why it was created, why it is important for home performance companies, and how it will help clients prepare for a resale or refinancing appraisal of their home to see more value. Also, expert panelists will discuss how to align the home performance data standards with data points that appraisers pay most attention to when appraising an energy efficient home.  
[Register](#)

**January 26-27, 2012**  
**MiaGreen Conference**  
Miami Beach Convention Center  
Miami, FL  
[www.MiaGreen.com](http://www.MiaGreen.com)

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Articles of Interest

### **7 Florida Facilities Run Afoul of EPA Air Quality Standards**

Florida is home to seven air pollutants that have been included in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Facility Watch List, according to the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting.  
[\[More\]](#)

### **Evidence Shows Gulf Oil**

announced recently it is proposing new water quality limits for nitrogen and phosphorus in waterways to replace controversial federal rules. The proposed rules will be considered at a Dec. 8 commission meeting and will be offered to the Legislature for ratification during its 2012 session.

### **Senate Panel Urges Keeping DRI Process**

Despite massive recent changes in Florida's growth management laws, a Senate committee staff has recommended keeping a process that requires regional review of larger developments. [\[More\]](#)

### **Water Management Districts Shut Out of Mitigation Projects in New Bill**

A bill filed by Rep. Ray Pilon, R-Sarasota, would take environmental mitigation efforts related to transportation projects out of the hands of Florida's water management districts and place them exclusively in the hands of private mitigation banks. [\[More\]](#)

### **DEP Mangrove-Cutting Case Shows Importance of Tree**

A recent mangrove-cutting case brought by the state Department of Environmental Protection against a Jupiter couple vividly demonstrates the importance of the coastline-stabilizing tree and that it's the only one in Florida protected by state statute. [\[More\]](#)

### **2010 FL Building Code Takes Effect March 15, 2012**

The effective date of 2010 Florida Building Code and the 2012 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction is March 15, 2012. All construction projects covered by the codes for which applications for a building permit are submitted on or after March 15, 2012 must comply with the 2010 Florida Building Code which includes the 2012 Florida Accessibility Code, (s.553.73(6), Florida Statutes).

### **Orlando Becomes Clean Energy Concept Hub**

A project aimed at spurring growth in clean technologies-the

### **Spill Caused Widespread Ecological Damage**

Evidence is mounting that the BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster caused wide-ranging ecological damage in the northern Gulf of Mexico. [\[More\]](#)

### **Tax Credits Expire Dec 31 - Take Action Now**

A federal tax credit for energy- and money-saving home upgrades will expire on Dec. 31. But you can beat the deadline by making energy-efficient upgrades now. [\[More\]](#)

### **FGBC Committee Meetings**

**Affordable Housing**  
3rd Thursday-monthly  
10 a.m.

**Board of Directors**  
3rd Wednesday-monthly  
3 p.m.

**Commercial**  
1st Tuesday-monthly  
3 p.m.

**Education**  
1st Tuesday-monthly  
2 p.m.

**Hi-Rise Residential**  
3rd Wednesday-monthly  
11 a.m.

**Homes**  
2nd Thursday-monthly  
2 p.m.

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

**Local Government**

Igniting Innovation Cleantech Acceleration Network-is helping to support the economically depressed area surrounding Orlando, by providing an extensive network of resources for entrepreneurs.

It's one of three partnerships DOE selected for funding as part of the i6 Green Challenge, which is a \$12 million initiative that rewards innovative, groundbreaking ideas that enable technology commercialization, job creation, and economic growth. The i6 Green Challenge builds on the success of the Obama Administration's i6 Challenge, and more specifically targets the clean energy technology markets of the 21st century.

These proof-of-concept centers will help to accelerate the commercialization of products based on exciting new research and support the development of green jobs in regions across the country. [\[More\]](#)

## **Solar Takes Hold in Gainesville**

For Gainesville homeowners Tim Moses and his wife, Carol Lewis, the decision was easy: 10 solar panels on the roof, a \$100 check in the mail each month and a sustainable energy generating system, guaranteed for 30 years.

More people make the decision to go solar each year. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, solar energy consumption has risen 60 percent over the past four years. Since 2006, shipments of photovoltaic solar panels have increased 333 percent.

On top of the federal and local financial incentives, such as Gainesville's solar feed-in tariff program, the price of solar home installation has decreased. The feed-in program pays homeowners a set amount for the energy their solar systems produce for 20 years. [\[More\]](#)

## **Florida Ranks 6th in Solar Job Growth**

As of August 2011, the National Solar Jobs Census 2011 identified more than 17,198 solar employment sites and 100,237 solar jobs in all 50 states. The solar industry's job growth rate of 6.8 percent is significantly higher than the 2 percent net job loss in fossil fuel power generation and the economy-wide expectation of 0.7 percent growth over the same period.

1st Tuesday-monthly  
10:30 a.m.

**Membership  
Committee**

3rd Thursday-monthly

**Programs &  
Promotions**

3rd Thursday-monthly  
1 p.m.

**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](#)

At the state level, California continued to be the national leader in solar employment, with 25,575 workers. Rounding out the top 10 states are Colorado, Arizona, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, Texas, Oregon, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Colorado, Arizona, Florida, Oregon, New Jersey and Massachusetts showed the strongest growth rates from August 2010. [[More](#)]

**Census, HUD Report: New Home Sales Increase**

New single-family home sales jumped 5.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 313,000 units in September from the previous month's revised rate of 296,000 units, according to data released Oct. 26 by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, new single-family home sales were down 0.9 percent from September 2010.

Regionally, sales climbed 11.2 percent in the South to 179,000 units and 9.7 percent in the West to 68,000 units. However, sales fell 12.2 percent in the Midwest to 43,000 units and 4.2 percent in the Northeast to 23,000 units. Median new home prices logged in at \$204,400 in September, while the average sales price came in at \$243,900. New home inventory fell in September from the previous month to 163,000 units on a seasonally adjusted basis. Based on the current sales pace, there is now a 6.2-month supply of new homes on the market on a seasonally adjusted basis, down from the previous month's supply of 6.6 months.

**Weatherization Assistance Program Seventh Highest Recovery Act Job Creator**

The federal low-income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) ranks seventh out of approximately 200 federal programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. [[More](#)]

**Carter, Swindell Set to Lead FHBA**

Winter Haven engineer Dave Carter and Sarasota insurance agency executive Bud Swindell were installed as President and Second Vice President, respectively of the Florida Home Builders Association last weekend in Tampa. Suzanne Graham of Port Charlotte was installed as First Vice President/Treasurer, Ron Lieberman of Beverly Hills as Secretary, and Patty Wedge-Ludwig of Bonita Springs as Third Vice President. [[View Profiles](#)]