

March 22, 2011

FBC 2010 Proposes 'Required' Duct Testing

There are a number of changes to the Florida Building Code 2010 edition coming on the energy front. All duct sizing shall be in accordance with ACCA manual D. All newly constructed single family dwelling will be required to provide a certificate of duct testing. The testing must be accomplished in accordance with ASHRAE Standard 152. All ducts and air handlers shall be either located in conditioned space or tested by a Class 1 Building energy rating System (BERS) rater to be "substantially leak free". [\[Code Changes\]](#) [\[Duct Testing\]](#)

FL DEP Opens Section 319 NPS Grant Period

The DEP Nonpoint Source Management Section administers grant money received from the U.S. EPA through Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These grant funds are used to implement projects to manage nonpoint sources of pollution (NPS) and restore our impaired waterbodies.

In recent years, DEP has awarded between \$4-5 million each year in Section 319 funds to local governments and others in Florida to implement projects designed to reduce the impacts of NPS pollution. The majority of funding is used to support the construction of stormwater treatment facilities; however, funding has also been used for demonstration projects (for agricultural and urban best management practices (BMPs)), training opportunities, and education programs. Eligible grant recipients include state agencies, local governments, colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, public utilities, and state water management districts. Partnerships between local and state entities are strongly encouraged. [\[More\]](#) [\[Application\]](#)

FGBC News

FGBC Regional Event Planned for West Palm Beach

Check out the "Meet-Up" website **Jason Krause**, Regional Liaison for Area 15 created for the FGBC regional events: <http://www.meetup.com/fgbcpbc/>. The event takes place on March 23 in the Crowne Plaza at 1601 Belvedere Road West in West Palm Beach. Great work, Jason!

FGBC Members Invited to Legislative Briefing April 13

The Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) has invited FGBC members to attend the FHBA Spring Legislative Conference scheduled for April 13, 2011 in Tallahassee. FGBC will serve as co-host of the event. The event is free to FGBC members who are encouraged to travel to the state capital to be briefed on the housing/construction industry's legislative priorities then hold face-to-face discussions with their legislators. The briefing will be held on Wednesday, April 13 from 2:30 pm to 5 pm in the Opal Room of the Hotel Duval (415 North Monroe Street near downtown Tallahassee). A reception for all participants and legislators will be held from 6 pm to 7 pm on April 13 at the Florida Housing Center (FHBA's headquarters building at 201 East Park Avenue). Thursday, April 14 has been set aside for capital visits. FGBC will serve as a co-host with the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) of the Legislative Visitation. To register, email info@floridagreenbuilding.org with your name and names of any guests. A name badge will be available onsite.

FGBC Board of Directors Nominations Close March 31

Each year the Florida Green Building Coalition elects eight members to its Board of Directors - one in each of the following categories. Nominees must be current members of FGBC.

- *At Large: Anyone with a personal or professional interest in green building (Defined by Bylaws)*
- *Academic & Research: Schools, Colleges, Universities; Research organizations; Educators (e.g. teachers, science museum personnel)*
- *Design & Analysis: architects, energy raters, engineers, FGBC Certifying Agents, interior designers, landscape architects, LEED certifiers, private planners; consultants*
- *Development & Construction: builders, developers, subcontractors*

- *Governmental: Local, state or federal agency or its employees; County extension agents; Municipality utility representatives*
- *Products: Distributors, manufacturers and manufacturer associations, Retailers; Recyclers and waste reduction specialists; Utility representatives*
- *Real Estate, Finance & Property Services: bankers, real estate attorneys, mortgage brokers, Realtors, energy managers, home inspectors, insurance representatives, warranty services, and maintenance services*
- *Public Advocate: environmental groups, full-time students, media specialists, private citizens not otherwise employed*

All nomination requests must include the person's name, company and city, along with a 150-word bio and a 2x2 headshot. Please send all nominations to: [FGBC](#) and they will be forwarded to the FGBC Nominating Committee for confirmation interviews. Visit the [FGBC website](#) for more information.

New Energy Star Requirements Set for TVs

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed updates to the Energy Star requirements for televisions and cable and satellite boxes. Effective in September 2011, these products must be 40 percent more efficient than conventional models in order to qualify for the Energy Star label. The updates are the first of more than 20 revisions to product requirements the Energy Star program is expected to complete this year. [\[More\]](#)

Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award Nominations Close March 30

Make your nomination today for the 2011 Sustainable Florida Best Practice Awards - the state's premier sustainability awards program. More than 100 businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental groups and individuals have been honored for their work that demonstrates that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are mutually supportive. The Governor and Cabinet bestow a resolution honoring the winners each year.

The nomination deadline is fast approaching. Nominate yourself, a colleague, a vendor or partner. Awards will be presented in several categories including Leadership, Small Business, Large Business, Non-Profit, Partnership, and Green Building. An independent blue-ribbon panel of experts in sustainable practices will review and score the nominees. [Nomination forms](#) may be accessed on the web. Deadline is March 30, 2011.

Progress Energy Will Offer \$2 Per Watt Rebate Beginning in March

Progress Energy Florida customers looking to add a solar photovoltaic (PV) or solar water heating system may soon be eligible for additional financial incentives. The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has granted Progress Energy Florida final approval to expand its existing solar program to include new and increased incentives and offerings for customers installing solar-energy technology. The expanded SunSense program will go into effect March 15 [\[More\]](#)

New Solar Rebates Offered by Gulf Power

In addition to its EarthCents programs, Gulf Power has received Public Service Commission (PSC) approval for several new solar rebate programs.

- Solar Thermal Water Heating –Offers a \$1000 rebate for the installation of a qualifying solar thermal water heater.
- Solar PV –Offers an incentive of \$2 per watt up to a maximum of \$10,000 per installation of a qualified photovoltaic (PV) system.
- Solar Thermal Water Heating for Low-Income Housing –Gulf Power will facilitate the installation of solar thermal water heating systems in select qualifying low-income housing. The utility anticipates funding up to 15 low-income residential installations per year.
- Solar for Schools –Provides capital funding to supplement deployment of PV or photovoltaic systems up to 10 kW in select qualifying public schools served by the utility. The program also will offer educational benefits — the data collected from the installed systems can be used in the schools' energy curriculum.

[\[More\]](#)

US DOT Budgets for Florida Transit Project

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced funding recommendations in February for 10 new capital transit construction projects. The spending plan recommends investing \$569.3 million in 10 new transit construction projects, including \$21.3 million for the Jacksonville Transit Authority rapid transit route from north of downtown Jacksonville to I-295. [\[More\]](#)

And in Other Florida Budget News. . .

Gov Scott Rejects Federal Funding

Governor Rick Scott unexpectedly announced that he had rejected the federal money slated for the high-speed rail project in Central Florida. In response to requests from the Florida Congressional Delegation, US Transportation Secretary LaHood has given one week to create a deal that would give the money to a private entity or a regional planning organization. If that fails, the money will apparently be reallocated to another state pursuing high-speed rail projects

Florida's senior U.S. Senator Bill Nelson is demanding to know why Governor Scott is not allowing the state of Florida to use over \$1 billion in federal funds for a foreclosure prevention program known as "Hardest Hit. The program provides mortgage assistance for up to 18 months, or a maximum of \$35,000 and was suppose to be available to Floridians beginning February, 2011. Florida is the only state of the original five to receive funding that has not implemented a full program.

Sustainable Florida Sets Top Priorities in Annual Report

This year's primary recommendation is to specifically charge the Century Commission with developing a long-range, strategic plan for Florida; and to support this directive with necessary funding to develop the plan by 2013. Recommendations offered in this report are as follows:

- Formally create and adopt a strategic plan that provides an actionable design for the state's social, environmental and economic future
- Adopt a long-range, reliable and sustainable energy policy that balances costs to consumers with environmental impacts while addressing carbon emissions
- Adopt the consensus-based recommendations from the 2008 Water Congress that address the need to ensure a sustainable water supply for people, agriculture and the environment
- Fully fund the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Cooperative Conservation Blueprint efforts that use and regularly update the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) GIS-spatial database

[Annual Report](#)

NREL's Energy Modeling Tools Help Cut Energy Use in Buildings

Residential and commercial buildings account for 40% of energy use in the United States. A team at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has developed a suite of energy modeling tools to help cut down on this consumption—free to anyone who wants to use them. Whether upgrading existing buildings or designing new ones, modeling is a core component to reducing energy consumption. In fact, these tools helped design NREL's Research Support Facility, a model for cost-effective, super energy-efficient construction.

The Department's EnergyPlus program provides comprehensive building energy modeling for buildings. NREL is working to add tools to EnergyPlus, through its open source OpenStudio Application Suite and Google SketchUp. Through these programs, users can easily create a 3D model with photographs of a building. Additional plug-ins allow users to model lighting, equipment and simple HVAC systems. To help users master the new OpenStudio tools, NREL has posted a variety of training videos on YouTube and the OpenStudio website [\[EnergyPlus\]](#) [\[OpenStudio\]](#)

US EPA Seeks Applications for Environmental Community Grants

EPA is making approximately \$2 million available in 2011 to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. CARE is a community-based program that works with county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, and universities to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources. Applicants which could be eligible to apply for CARE funds include:

- Local, public nonprofit institution/organizations
- Federally recognized Indian tribal government
- Native American organizations
- Private nonprofit institution/organization

- Quasi-public nonprofit institution/organization both interstate and intrastate
- Local government
- Colleges and universities

EPA will award CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I awards range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 each and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each and will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities and become self-sustaining. [\[More\]](#)

Habitat for Humanity Seeks Sustainability Building Specialist

Habitat for Humanity of Florida has an immediate need for an engaging, articulate professional to provide certification, consulting and technical assistance services on a wide variety of sustainable, green and preservation (repair and rehab) building projects for Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Florida. Please send your resume and salary history to Habitat for Humanity of Florida, at sustainablebuilding@habitatflorida.org. Resumes are due by March 20.

GreenTrends Early-Bird Discount Ends March 31

Planning on exhibiting at GreenTrends 2011? Reserve your booth by March 31 to save up to \$150!

Why Exhibit?

- The reputation of FGBC makes it the "go to" organization for information
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