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Certification News

Local

Governments

City of St. Cloud

Certified: 8/16/11

Level: Silver

Points: 21%

"Florida Green" Homes

3,822 as of 8/31/11

[Join Our List](#)

EPA Approves New Waterways Classification

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has approved a new waterway classification system that some environmentalists say will allow more water pollution. Florida previously had five waterway classifications that ranged from drinking water supplies (Class I) to utility and industrial use (Class V). Most waterways have been designated as Class III for fishing and swimming. But the state Environmental Regulation Commission in 2010 approved an additional "Class III Limited" category that provides water quality for only limited recreation and limited populations of fish and wildlife. The US EPA approved the new classification system on September 6, 2011. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection said the new category recognizes that some ditches and altered waterways cannot meet the conditions of a natural water body. The new classification was created so that local governments are not required to spend millions of dollars to improve water quality in ditches and canals.

Energy Star 3 Implementation Postponed

After extensive consideration, EPA is adjusting the overall implementation timeline for the ENERGY STAR for Homes program requirements and two specific items related to HVAC design. Specific changes include the following:

- While all homes permitted on or after January 1, 2012 must still be built to the Version 3 requirements, EPA is allowing homes permitted in 2011 to continue to be qualified under the transitional Version 2.5 guidelines through June 30, 2012. Previously, homes permitted in 2011 but completed on or after January 1, 2012 would have also been required to be labeled using the Version 3 guidelines.
- On the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist, for homes with final inspection dates through 12/31/2012, loads and room-level design airflows shall be permitted to be calculated for the configuration that will result in the largest load when a house plan is built with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options).

Join Our Mailing List!

Calendar

September 26-28, 2011
Florida Housing Coalition
Affordable Housing
Conference
Rosen Shingle Creek
Orlando, FL
www.flhousing.org

October 4, 2011
The Future of Water
Partnerships
in Florida's New
Environment
Hyatt Regency
Tampa, FL
[\[More\]](#)

October 5, 2011
Charlotte County Energy
Options Conference
Charlotte Harbor Event
Center
75 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com

October 6, 2011
Green Economic Pathways
& Partnerships
Sarasota, FL
[\[More\]](#)

October 8, 2011
Green Home Show
Market Street
Tallahassee, FL
www.tallyba.com

November 10, 2011
FGBC Certifying Agent
Annual Verification Course
Miami, FL
[Register](#)

FGBC Committee Meetings

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

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

Commercial

- On the HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist, for homes with a final inspection date through 12/31/2012, Item 1.2.1 is permitted to be within +/- 5 degrees of the 1% and 99% ACCA Manual J design temperatures for the contractor-designated design location. In addition, for each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options), the Rater shall confirm that the parameters listed in Items 1.2.2 - 1.2.6 are aligned with either: the rated home, or with the plans for the configuration used to calculate the loads, as provided by the contractor.
- On the HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist, homes with a final inspection date through 12/31/2012 are permitted to be qualified without enforcement of the pressure-balancing requirement in Item 2.8 [\[More\]](#)

Cutler Bay Signs PACE Contract with Ygrene Energy

The Town of Cutler Bay has signed an agreement with Ygrene Energy Fund Florida, a subsidiary of the nationwide Ygrene Energy Fund, to provide no-risk administration of its Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Property Assessed Clean Energy is a key ingredient as Cutler Bay leads a consortium of cities toward creation of a Green Corridor district for Miami-Dade County. PACE operates under State law and allows property owners to finance energy efficiency, renewable energy and wind-hardening retrofits on their buildings. Besides benefiting property owners through reduced energy and insurance bills, the programs provide local jobs, stimulate the local economy and help participating cities achieve their environmental goals.

Ygrene Energy Fund Florida won the publicly bid Cutler Bay contract with its cost-free setup, and with a unique financing arrangement through Barclays Capital that ensures a virtually unlimited flow of private capital to fund demand throughout the country. PACE participants secure the financing with a voluntary property assessment, which is then repaid through their property tax bill over terms as long as 20 years.

"PACE is a win-win: Property owners can save money, increase the value of their homes and help support local job growth," said Steve Alexander, Cutler Bay Town Manager. "Program guidelines ensure that property owners will save more money on their energy bills than the cost of the project."

The Miami-Dade County municipalities of Coral Gables, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, Miami, and South Miami are

1st Tuesday-monthly
3 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
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](#)

proposing to join Cutler Bay as members of a Green Corridor district, created to encourage renewable energy and upgrades for storm damage prevention.

Besides reducing energy demands and costs for property owners, Green Corridor PACE programs offer a number of benefits - especially job creation. Ygrene Florida projects that every \$40 million spent on projects results in 600 permanent local jobs. The flow of program money also stimulates local economies. With a multiplier effect, every \$40 million of new financial investment adds approximately \$100 million to the local economies and as much as \$10 million in tax revenue.

SB216 Aims to Ban Bottled Water Permits

A Republican senator from Ormond Beach is raising the controversy over water bottling to another level with a bill filed September 14, 2011. SB 216 by Sen. Evelyn Lynn would place a 10-year ban on permits for the purchase of water with the intent to resell the water to the public for a commercial profit. Water bottling accounts for about 1.5 percent of all freshwater withdrawals, according to Cynthia Barnett, a *Florida Trend* editor.

Lynn said the aim of the bill is to prevent new water bottling operations from being permitted and she said it wouldn't apply to water utilities. Last month, she filed SB 118, which would place a 6 percent tax on the retail sale of bottled water under one gallon in size. The senator said she hears all the time that there is less water available for Florida's growing population and that severe conservation measures are needed, such as desalination and reuse of treated wastewater. [[More](#)]

MIT Offers Urban Design Software

If we are to improve the quality of life in our cities - 27 of which are expected to have more than 10 million people by 2020 - we will have to find a better way to build them. MIT's new software touts it will help.

Until now, claims MIT, no free tools were available for city planners to tackle the tough computational challenges of characterizing the dense tangle of streets, buildings, and transport in modern cities. MIT hopes the UNA toolbox, an open-source plug-in for the ArcGIS mapping program, will enable urban designers, architects, planners, and geographers around the world to better understand how the spatial patterns of cities will affect the way people live and move around their urban environments. [[More](#)]

Lesson to Learn: German Village Produces 321% More Energy Than It Needs

We all hear the stories about how advanced Europe is in energy conservation. This one caught my eye:

The Village of Wildpoldsried in Germany has built a system of efficiency, water and renewable projects to where they are now completely energy independent and, in fact, produce 321% more energy than they use. The Wildpoldsried community has managed to achieve the sort of economic and energy independence that so many counties and cities strive for, without incurring any debt. The ability to access feed-in-tariffs, increasingly being known as CLEAN (clean local energy available now) programs in the United States, as well as grant funding has helped to drive the ability to fund installation of solar panels on homes and public buildings across the town. Additionally the village has built a district energy heating system in the village center, installed five community windmills and built four biodigesters as well as implemented broad energy efficiency measures and developed natural wastewater treatment systems. A number of small businesses have sprung up in the community to sell, install and service these technologies. The net result is that not only is this community self-sufficient but it generates over \$5M a year in energy sales. [[More](#)]

Upcoming Education Offerings

September 26, 2011

Jobs in the Clean Energy Supply Chain

Reitz Union Center
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) will host a clean energy workshop focused on Florida, titled Jobs in the Clean Energy Supply Chain: Securing Florida's Energy Independence. The event is co-hosted by the Florida Energy Systems Consortium. [[More](#)]

September 29, 2011 (webinar)

High Performance Building Trends in Green Affordable Housing

2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (Eastern)

[[Register](#)]

Affordable and innovative building techniques pioneered in high performance buildings are becoming increasingly mainstream and necessary to meet resource-reduction targets established by federal, state and local governments.

This live online event will discuss how high performance building programs can assist affordable housing developers and owners in achieving their targets, strategies and technologies around implementation, and lessons learned from project examples.

FHC Annual Conference Set for Sept 26-28

The Florida Housing Coalition (FHC) is hosting their annual affordable housing technical assistance conference at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando on September 26-28, 2011. Emphasis is on re-evaluating housing strategies to effectively assist Floridians in obtaining and sustaining affordable housing. Four educational tracks focus on:

- Neighborhood Stabilization in Florida Recovery and Reinvestment - Progress overview; new HUD guidance; upcoming tasks and milestones; and training for program design;
- Affordable Green Housing - Integrating design; establishing initiatives and policies; and creating effective partnerships;
- Preservation - From HUD to USDA: Focus on identifying and acquiring existing assisted rental housing; and
- Foreclosure Prevention - Hardest-Hit Program update and other foreclosure alternatives.

In addition other training sessions include the nuts and bolts of housing finance and development; housing finance and development for the expert; case studies and success stories; legislative advocacy; community organizing; and new tools for accessing funding opportunities. [[More](#)]