

March 18, 2016

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT: GlowBowl



GlowBowl became the No. 1 bestselling nightlight on Amazon in its first 60 days on the site and received a 4.5 star rating from Amazon users. Could it be a cool way to differentiate your bathrooms?

The motion-sensor night light works only when it is dark and has a five-stage dimmer to achieve the desired level of brightness. GlowBowl attaches discretely to the toilet bowl, transforming a dark bathroom into a welcoming space even in the middle of the night.

With a choice of seven vibrant colors, the product is designed to appeal to family members young and old-- those just learning how to use the toilet and seniors who may need a guiding light for nighttime bathroom visits. [[More](#)]

RESNET and Appraisal Institute Partner To Value Energy Performance of Homes

RESNET has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Appraisal Institute to work together to boost high-energy performance homes in the housing market.

The following are the elements of the partnership:

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- RESNET and the Appraisal Institute will develop an access to the RESNET Registry so that residential real estate appraisers can search in real time the following information:
 - The HERS Index score of a home
 - The HERS rating company that rated the home
 - The date the home was HERS Rated
 - The projected energy savings of the home
- The two organizations agreed to work together to present educational programs on real estate valuation topics and the HERS Index to appraisers, builders, developers, and other interested individuals.

Traditionally residential appraisers have had a challenge valuing home energy performance. Many of the features that make a home energy efficient are hidden when the drywall is installed. In addition, building performance is based on whole house design and system principals that are hard to detail in a checklist. Plus, appraisers have not been able to find the data they need to compare similar homes in the market.

The partnership can be a game changer in terms of real estate appraiser evaluation of the energy performance of a home as part of the appraisal process. Residential real estate appraisers will be able to search for homes with comparable HERS Index scores in determining the market value of such feature of a home in the market. [[More](#)]

2016 Legislative Update

Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) HB 1361/LaRosa. (Passed)

It clarified and addressed two issues: (1) local governments must be involved in approving, or not, changes to existing DRIs that seek to reduce density, height or intensity, if consistent with the comp plan in effect when the DRI was approved, and (2) local governments may, for essentially built out DRIs, swap one approved land use for another if the applicant can demonstrate no net increase of impacts to public facilities that meets all applicable comp plan and land development code provisions.

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[84 Lumber Offers 'Tiny Homes' Direct to Customers](#)

[Supreme Court Rejects Attempt to Block Air Pollution Rule](#)

[25+ Shipping Container House Plans](#)
(See related Feature Story)

[Campers: Hotaru Portable Shower Provides Adequate Pressure & Water Efficiency](#)

Stay Connected



FGBC Welcomes New Members

Jeff Blomstrom
[Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating](#)
Land O' Lakes

Masoud Karimipour
(Rejoin)
[Persica Homes](#)
Tallahassee

Matt Roe
[Mattamy Homes](#)
Riverview

Lev Tretyakov
[Fortador, LLC](#)
Bay Harbor Islands

Quick Links

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Implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment SB 1168 (Negron) and HB 989 (Harrell). (Passed)

Gives preference to projects that reduce harmful discharges of water from Lake Okeechobee to the St. Lucie or Caloosahatchee estuaries. Amended to include a minimum of 7.6% or \$50 million for springs restoration. Also includes \$5 million per year for Lake Apopka restoration. Effective for the life of Amendment 1. Does not bind future Legislatures to these amounts. [[More](#)]

Tax Exemption for Solar or Renewable Energy Sources (Passed)

The tangible personal property and commercial ad-valorem tax exemptions passed the Florida Legislature and will appear on the August 30, 2016 statewide primary election ballot. If approved by the voters, the legislature is authorized to abate ad valorem taxation and exempt tangible personal property tax on solar or renewable energy source devices installed on commercial and industrial property. This reflects an extension of the existing ad valorem abatement for solar and renewable energy devices on residential property. The proposal opens the door for significant expansion of solar and renewable energy production in Florida. Once implemented by the legislature, the tax incentives of the amendment will begin in 2018 and extend for 20 years. [[More](#)]

PACE Funding Comes to Alachua County

Alachua County is launching a financing initiative for property owners to make energy efficiency upgrades. YGreene, a company that supplies 0 percent down loans, is working with Alachua County to provide the loans.

In October 2015, Florida's Supreme Court ruled to allow PACE programming in the state. The case was shuffled up to Florida's highest court by the Florida Bankers Association due to a concern that property owners will pay back the Ygreene loan before repaying the bank the mortgage note. The Florida Bankers Association's case against YGreene was not upheld in the court.

The county joins 25 other Florida counties, and 155 communities across the country which have taken on this financing initiative. Alachua hopes that the PACE

Education Opportunities

**March 22-23, 2016
Florida Water StarSM
Accredited
Professional Training
and Exam**
Winter Haven, FL
[[More](#)]

**April 13-14, 2016
FGBC Certifying Agent
Designation Class**
FSEC
[[Register](#)]

**April 21, 2016
FGBC Certifying Agent
Annual Verification Class**
Fort Lauderdale, FL
[[Register](#)]

[Energy Star Webinars](#)

[Building America Webinars](#)

Calendar of Events

**March 22-23, 2016
Sustainable You
Conference**
Tallahassee, FL
[[More](#)]

**April 28, 2016
SWFL Sustainability
Summit**
Bonita Spring, FL
[[More](#)]

Certification News

Homes
Registered: 12,019
Certified: 11,906

Commercial
Registered: 41
Certified: 13

High Rise
Registered: 47
Certified: 12

Land Developments
Registered: 62
Certified: 13

Local Government
Registered: 82
Certified: 60

Recent Certifications

initiative will inject a stream of construction jobs into the area as property upgrades begin to pop up around town. [[More](#)]

NGBS Green Certification Fees Increase

Beginning April 1, 2016 the NGBS residential certification fees will increase as follows:

Single Family..... \$200 per home
Volume Discount 350<500 homes).... \$150 per home
Volume Discount >500 homes..... \$100 per home

Multi-Family
(3 stories & under)..... \$200 per bldg + \$30 per unit
(4 stories & above)..... \$600 per bldg + \$30 per unit

Volume Discounts (per project):

10-19 bldgs.....\$200 per bldg + \$30 per unit
20-49 bldgs..... \$150 per bldg + \$30 per unit
50+ bldgs..... \$125 per bldg + \$30 per unit

In comparison, the [Florida Green Building Coalition](#) rates currently are:

Single-Family
Members of FGBC & Local HBA..... \$75 per home
Members of FGBC or Local HBA..... \$100 per home
Non Members..... \$125 per home

Multi-Family (3 stories & under)
Members.....100 application fee
+ \$100 per building + \$25 per unit
Non Members..... \$100 application fee
+ \$100 per building + \$35 per unit

Under the Florida Green Building Coalition standards, residential buildings 4 stories and above are rated under the [FGBC High-Rise Residential Building Standard](#) with fees based on square footage.

Green Building Trends in 2016



As consumers place more importance on evolving their

City of Bonita Springs

Location: Bonita Springs
Type: Local Government
Certified: 2/9/16
Score: 53
Level: Gold

City of Delray Beach

Location: Delray Beach
Type: Local Government
Certified: 2/3/16
Score: 39
Level: Silver

Recent Registrations:

Oakland Park Amenity Center

Location: Winter Garden
Type: Commercial
Size: 4,805 S.F.

Charlotte County

Location: Port Charlotte
Type: Local Government
Size: 159,978

FGBC Committee Meetings

Board of Directors

2nd Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

Commercial

1st Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Education

1st Thursday
Monthly
3 p.m.

GreenTrends

1st Tuesday
Monthly
4 p.m.

High-Rise

3rd Tuesday
Monthly
11 a.m.

Homes

2nd Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

4th Wednesday
Bi-monthly
2 p.m.

communities to create more responsible, sustainable places to live, the construction industry has been forced to evolve as well to meet the needs of their customers.

As the standards for building methods shift, green construction in turn shifts to find ways to balance cost and efficiency. Technology was often ignored as being too costly, but now, more than ever, that narrative is changing.

Thanks to a combination of consumer demand and government incentives, companies that had previously opted for a more frugal approach to construction are finding the benefits outweigh the costs when implementing more advanced technologies in their projects. [[More](#)] [[2016 Construction Trends](#)]

New EcoDistricts Protocol Aims To Change Approach to Green Building

It's becoming clearer that we need to address energy, water, land use, environmental justice, and other green building issues within whole communities. Meanwhile, most of the work still happens one building at a time. A new "[EcoDistricts Protocol](#)" scheduled for release in March 2016 hopes to change our current approach.

The protocol, touted by its creators as "a new model of urban regeneration," might feel disorienting for anyone accustomed to the fixed targets set by programs like the 2030 Commitment or rating systems like LEED and the Living Building Challenge. Although it does offer a certification path, EcoDistricts is less a rating system than a self-benchmarking tool for stakeholders like government agencies, housing authorities, community development organizations, real estate developers, or business improvement districts. It's uniquely about measuring the process of change over time.

So although it addresses many of the same issues seen in other rating systems, it deals with them differently. For example, LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) prescribes that "continuous sidewalks are provided along both sides of 90% of the circulation network block length." EcoDistricts uses a similar but simpler metric-"percentage of streets with sidewalks on both sides"-and requires stakeholders to set goals for improvement, then report their progress yearly. [[More](#)]

Local Government

3rd Thursday
Monthly
10:30 a.m.

Programs & Promotions

3rd Tuesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

Funding Opportunities

[St. Johns River WMD Water Programs](#)

[South Florida WMD Water Programs](#)

[Southwest Florida WMD Water Programs](#)

[FHFC Multifamily Energy Retrofit Program \(MERP\)](#)

Job Opportunities

[APA Florida Job Board](#)

[Green Dream Jobs](#)

[Florida Facility Managers Assn Job Board](#)

Why Solar Will Win (In 2016)

Although only a handful of U.S. production builders offer solar energy systems, the residential solar market has quietly but steadily boomed over the past five years. Technology has improved exponentially while the cost of installation has substantially decreased, helped by a federal tax credit that's been extended until 2019. By many accounts, this could be the year home builders start paying attention.

There's good reason to get on the bandwagon, says the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), which predicts an unprecedented boom in photovoltaic installations and concentrated solar power in 2016, largely because of the tax credit extension passed by Congress in December 2015.

The tax credit is worth 30 percent of a solar array's price until 2019, when it will begin to drop until it remains at 10 percent from 2022 on. Congress' extension will drive \$38 billion of investment in solar through 2021, pushing down costs and making solar one of the cheapest forms of electricity in many states, predicts Bloomberg New Energy Finance. [\[More\]](#)

Solar Shipping Containers Morph into Homes

The founder of Jaguar Containers, William Coit, has created shipping container homes with solar panels and an energy storage system.

JagPods come in two versions: A 20-foot home starting at \$30,000 and a 40-foot home starting at \$60,000. The homes have the option to be connected to the grid based on buyer needs. The solar system consists of 2-4 panels, with each panel being 235 Watts, plus the mounting array, inverter, controller and 27 volt battery bank.

The JagPod can be built in 90 days and deployed anywhere in the world. It carries a 10-year structural warranty and provides great resistance to natural disasters, including resistance to winds of up to 100 mph.

Wherever an emergency disaster occurs, Coit says he would like to make JagPods available to help solve these housing problems. [\[More\]](#)

Sea Rise Risk in Florida Triples Previous Estimates

For the first time, a team of researchers looked at ongoing population growth in areas where the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has created flood maps that more accurately reflect local conditions. What they found was startling: Projections that failed to factor in population growth in dense states like Florida hugely underestimated the number of people at risk and the cost of protecting them. Highlights of the study indicate:

- Authors find three times more people at risk from flooding in U.S. than earlier projected
- Floridians alone make up nearly half that number if seas rise six feet
- Residents in Miami-Dade and Broward counties make up a quarter of U.S. citizens at risk

Combined with the findings from a 2015 report, that means Florida can claim two titles: most property at risk and now, most people. [[More](#)]

Grants Available for Foam Polystyrene Recycling

Grant money from the Foam Recycling Coalition is available to increase recycling of packaging made from foam polystyrene.

The FRC, part of the Foodservice Packaging Institute, says it seeks applicants looking to start or strengthen a post-consumer foam polystyrene recycling program. **Organizations involved in managing residential curbside recycling programs or material recovery facilities are eligible to apply for funding.** Available to both public and private organizations, each grant will range from about \$15,000 to \$50,000. [[More](#)]



'Proof Is Possible' Tour Aims to Promote Home Energy Performance Testing

The Proof Is Possible Tour teaches homeowners and homebuyers to take control of their houses with diagnostics, and get proof they got what they paid for.

The tour will be in St. Augustine April 3-9, 2016, on-site at The St. Augustine Record, 1 News Place.

The tour aims to also deepen the real estate community's understanding of the value of performance. Out of 850 total MLS databases in the U.S., a surprising 185 incorporate 'green' features- but few Realtors understand how to use them. The National Association of Realtors found in 2012 that 87% of surveyed homebuyers believe cooling and heating costs are "important" or "very important". High performance home certifications can add a 10% premium to a home's selling price, according to several studies surveying millions of home sales throughout the nation. [[More](#)]