

May 9, 2016

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Recent FGBC Commercial Project Certifications

Commercial certifications under the FGBC "Florida Green Commercial Building" designation standard are on the rise. The designation represents achievements in a number of categories, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, site preservation, indoor air quality, materials, and durability, including disaster mitigation.

Along with the obvious environmental advantages, green certified buildings cost less to operate, increase worker productivity, and provide a higher return on investment.

Our two featured FGBC certified commercial projects serve as models of sustainability for community businesses and residents.

Celebration Community Development District Facility

The Celebration Community Development District is responsible for the delivery and maintenance of urban community services within Celebration, such as to provide infrastructure for the community, including roadways, street lights, stormwater management areas, walking trails and sidewalks.

Its new facility certified on April 12th with a score of 127 (out of a 100-point required minimum), achieved a bronze-level certification under the Florida Green Building



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Coalition's "Florida Green Commercial Building" designation standard. FGBC Designated Professional Fred Muscatello with FCM Engineering in Maitland guided the green team through the certification process.



Fundamental building commissioning, daylight and occupancy sensors, and interior lighting power density less than 0.8 watts per square foot, all contributed to the building energy performance being 30-35% above minimum Florida Building Code requirements.

Exceptional water conservation measures include the use of dual-flush toilets with a UNAR MaP rating of 800 grams per flush or more,

motion sensor and self-closing, low-flow lavatory faucets, and kitchen faucets and showerheads using 1.5 gpm or less. Outdoor water conservation was achieved through the use of 100% Florida Friendly landscape plants and a properly installed irrigation system that provides separate zones for turf and landscape beds, and minimizes overspray on impervious surfaces.

To reduce the buildings heat island effect within the community, a solar reflective, Energy Star qualified roof was installed. Exterior lighting meets Dark Sky requirements, yet provides ample lighting for the safety of residents.

Bicycle storage, changing rooms, and shower facilities encourage alternative transportation methods, which could contribute to improved air quality for the community.

For addressing resource efficiency, approximately 20% of the materials used contained recycled content and 75% of the construction debris was recycled. In addition, 50% of the materials used were manufactured locally, reducing transportation impacts. [\[More\]](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

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Articles of Interest

[FIU and FPL Unveil One-of-A-Kind Solar Research Facility](#)

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[Building Green As A Customer Service Strategy](#)

FGBC Welcomes New Members

Victor Daboin
[Kissimmee Utility Authority](#)
Kissimmee

Stay Connected



Quick Links

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[GreenTrends](#)

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Education Opportunities

May 18-19, 2016
Florida Water Star Accredited Professional Training & Exam
Alachua County Health Department
Gainesville, FL
[\[More\]](#)

May 24-25, 2016
Florida Water Star Certifier Training & Exam (FREE)
Polk County Utilities
Winter Haven, FL
[\[More\]](#)

July 14, 2016
FGBC Certifying Agent Annual Verification Class
Tampa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)



Sailfish Splash Waterpark

This state-of-the-art recreational complex was created in response to citizens' of Martin County identifying an aquatics complex as a top priority for the county's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The two-acre water playground features a 1,000-foot lazy river, two four-story water slides, a 253-foot speed slide, a 7,326 square foot interactive splashy playground, 700 lounge and deck chairs, and Wi-Fi.

Earning 109 points, the project received a bronze-level designation under the FGBC Florida Green Commercial Building certification standard on April 29, 2016 through the assistance of FGBC Designated Professional Kyle Abney, Abney + Abney Green Solutions in Palm City.

The competitive swimming pool area is host to USA Swimming sanctioned short-course and long course swim meets, FHSAA swim and diving meets, and water polo competitions.

Cabana Cove offers secluded cabanas staged with cushioned wicker sofa and chairs, ceiling fans, electricity, and a concessions server for a relaxing day.

Sailshade canopies and funbrellas throughout Sailfish Splash Waterpark create plenty of shade. In addition, the facility serves patrons with physical disabilities with fully accessible entries and mobile pool lifts. Moreover, "green" water treatment and geothermal temperature maintenance help care for the environment.

Green achievements include advanced building systems commissioning and energy performance between 35-40% above building code requirements.

Water conservation efforts encompassed the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures, including toilets, faucets, and showerheads. In addition, the landscape achieved Florida Friendly Landscape Program certification

[Energy Star Webinars](#)

[Building America Webinars](#)

Calendar of Events

May 19-21, 2016

AIA Annual Convention
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA
[\[More\]](#)

June 1-4, 2016

National Zero Waste Business Conference
Sheraton Austin at the Capitol
Austin, TX
[\[More\]](#)

June 1-4, 2016

FL City & County Mgmt Assn (FCCMA)
Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista
Orlando, FL
[\[More\]](#)

Certification News

Homes

Registered: 12,502
Certified: 12,347

Commercial

Registered: 43
Certified: 15

High Rise

Registered: 49
Certified: 14

Land Developments

Registered: 62
Certified: 13

Local Government

Registered: 84
Certified: 60

Recent Certifications

Sailfish Splash Waterpark

Location: Stuart

Type: Commercial
Certified: 4/29/16
Score: 109
Level: Bronze

The chosen site provided close access to public transportation and many basic services, such as restaurants, school, supermarket, fitness center, and senior care facilities. [\[More\]](#)

US Senate Passes Bipartisan Energy Bill

The first broad energy bill passed in nearly a decade was passed by the U.S. Senate on April 20th. The bill requires each state to adopt a model building code to promote energy efficiency, provisions to bolster the electric grid to accommodate renewable energy, and promotes energy storage technology.

Of interest to the green building industry are the requirement of green certification for commercial and residential buildings, the reauthorization of the State Energy Program with a \$90,000,000 pool and funding opportunities for energy-efficient affordable housing, weatherization, workforce training, demonstration projects, product development, and research and development. [\[More\]](#) [\[Energy Bill\]](#)

HUD will be required to issue enhanced energy efficiency underwriting valuation guidelines for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and FHA will be required to implement enhanced loan eligibility requirements that consider the energy cost savings for loan applicants.

Confused About the Solar Amendments? Get the Facts Before You Vote

Solar constitutional amendments can be confusing and there are some people who are very happy to encourage this confusion.

In August, Floridians will be asked to vote on two solar amendments that would eliminate property taxes for commercial solar projects. Commercial solar did not pay property taxes until 2009 when it lost this exemption because of a poorly worded amendment that made the residential solar property tax exemption permanent. Eliminating property taxes encourages more solar projects in Florida.

Amendment 4, if passed, will exempt solar systems from the tangible personal property tax - the most burdensome of the taxes - for a period of 20 years. Taxes are the big reason that Florida - a state with no

Celebration Community Development District Facility

Location: Celebration
Type: Commercial
Certified: 4/12/16
Score: 127
Level: Bronze

Grove Park

Location: Port St. Lucie
Type: Multi-Family
Certified: 4/8/16
Level: Silver
Size: 210 Units

Recent Registrations:

Manor at Harbour Island

Location: Tampa
Type: High-Rise
Size: 412,605 s.f.

Town of Davie

Location: Davie
Type: Local Government
Size: 91,992

Mary Street Commercial

Location: Miami
Type: Commercial
Size: 207,669 s.f.

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.

solar incentives - has 9 million energy customers and yet only a mere 8,500 rooftop solar systems. By comparison, New Jersey has over 40,000 rooftop systems with half the population and less sun. The Sunshine State can and should do better. [[More](#)]

Floridians for Solar Choice developed an amendment that allowed citizens to have solar installed on their home or business and to buy the electricity from the solar, typically at less than they're paying the utility. This is legal in all but four states. This amendment did not receive enough signatures to be on the November ballot, in large part because the major utilities created Amendment 1 and heavily outspent this amendment for ballot gatherers. Amendment 1 is clearly designed to protect the utilities from competition and to limit solar options for the citizens for Florida. It would hurt solar. [[More](#)]

Real Estate Trends: Wellness-Oriented Developments

Real estate developers around the world are responding to increased consumer interest in cycling and walking as preferred modes of transportation by building projects adjacent to trails, bike paths, bike-sharing stations, and other infrastructure that supports human-powered mobility, according to a new ULI report.

[Active Transportation and Real Estate: The Next Frontier](#) identifies the latest phase in the evolution of urban development from car-centric to people-oriented design: "trail-oriented development" leverages investments in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure to offer car-free lifestyle and transportation choices to people seeking more physically active and environmentally sustainable modes of getting around.

Due to the rising popularity of walking and cycling for daily mobility, trail-oriented development presents a significant economic opportunity to the private sector. These projects are also producing positive fiscal impacts on local and regional economies. Real estate values of properties adjacent to walking and biking paths trails have increased-exponentially, in some cases, according to the report.

Cities and regions are taking note of improvements in quality of life, public health, and environmental

Land Development

4th Wednesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Local Government

3rd Thursday
Monthly
10:30 a.m.

Membership (New)

3rd Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.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](#)

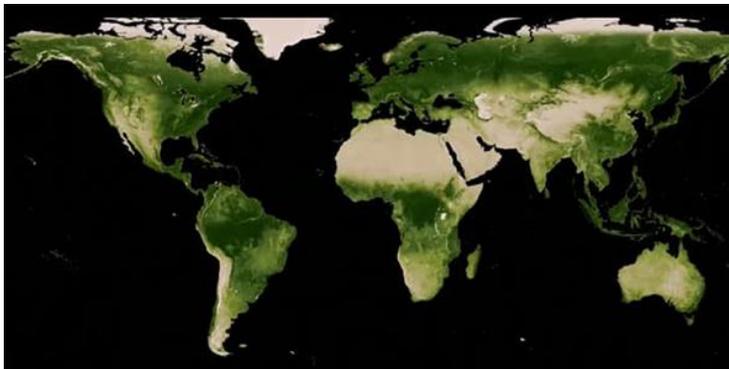
outcomes due to the existence of active transportation infrastructure and the private real estate developments that are making these amenities a focal point.

Active Transportation illustrates its conclusions through case studies of ten trail-oriented development projects throughout the world. Common themes emerge among the profiled projects, among them:

- Trails, bike lanes, bike-sharing stations, and sidewalks add value to development projects.
- There exists a growing market for the inclusion of bike-friendly features in residential and commercial properties.
- Relatively small investments in bike-friendly amenities can lead to improved returns.
- A reciprocal relationship exists between the public and private sectors in terms of maximizing investments in active transportation.
- Active transportation infrastructure can catalyze real estate development; in fact, a correlation exists between access to this infrastructure and increased property values.

Resources: [[More](#)] [[Download the Report](#)] [[Building Healthy Places Toolkit](#)] [[Lake County Wellness Sector Plan](#)]

Increased CO2 Levels Are Greening the Earth



Researchers studying NASA satellite data on the Earth's vegetation coverage have discovered that plants have significantly increased their leaf cover over the last 35 years to the point that new growth across the planet is equivalent to an area twice as large as the continental United States. According to the study, the largest contributor to this greening is

the growing level of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. An international team of researchers has determined that CO₂ fertilization explains fully 70 percent of the greening effect observed.

As is well known, CO₂ is vital for the biological process of photosynthesis in plants where leaves harness energy from sunlight to combine CO₂ with water and minerals from the soil to create sugars. So increasing the available CO₂ simply spurs growth by providing more of the gas required to feed the plant. But while the increasing CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere may be beneficial to plants in the short term, it still remains the major contributor to rapid climate change.

[\[More\]](#)

Shelton Report Reveals Political Common Ground When the Environment is the Focus

In this season of increasingly rude presidential campaign rhetoric, it seems that U.S. political parties have never been more divided. However, both parties should be aware that Americans, regardless of their political affiliation, show a surprising level of agreement on several key environmental concepts: "green" is good; energy efficiency makes sense; and we need to be relying more on renewable energy.

In its 2015 Eco Pulse study of 2,000 respondents, the Shelton Group found that "green" is popular on both sides of the political aisle:

- 65% of all respondents (62% Republicans, 67% Democrats) said the idea of "green" is a positive one, the exact same percent who thought that climate change is real and caused by human activity.
- 59% of Democrats and 62% of Republicans said that making their home more energy efficient was a priority.
- 71% of Democrats and 62% of Republicans said it was important/very important that electric and natural gas utilities offer their customers tips, rebates and products to help improve their homes' energy efficiency and help reduce energy bills.
- 70% of both Democrats and Republicans thought it is important that their electric utilities make an effort to generate or purchase at least some of their power through renewable

energy sources

When "green" was used to describe something, it triggers positive reactions such as "desirable, important, positive, or good for my health" in over 50% of respondents; but only 39% of respondents associated green as "good for business." Disappointingly, 76% associated green as expensive.

The "takeaway:" Use the terms "green," "eco-friendly" and "sustainable" with confidence - they enjoy broad appeal among consumers and no longer carry a polarizing political overtone. But be wary of using them to make product claims, because you may set up unrealistic expectations that risk the ire of both the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and consumers. And if you're trying to reach a specific subset of your customer base, segmentation is your best bet for finding which words resonate most. [[More](#)]

Livable Florida: Planning for Sustainable Communities Toolkit

APA Florida's Sustainability Committee has created a resource for Florida planners who want to create sustainable communities while attempting to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the impacts of climate change and preserving the environment. [[More](#)].

Sections include:

- Climate Change
- Environment
- Healthy By Design
- Housing
- Land Use
- Resiliency
- Solid Waste Management & Recycling
- Transportation & Mobility
- Water Resources

Buoys Warn Swimmers of Dirty Water

Are the public waters in your local area safe enough to swim in today? Currently, the only way to find out is for someone to take a water sample, bring it back to a lab, then report the analysis 24 to 48 hours later.

Soon, however, water-sampling buoys anchored off of beaches could provide readings in real time.

Developed by scientists at Michigan State University and the US Geological Survey, each of the buoys contain sensors that continuously measure variables such as water temperature, clarity and bacterial content. Using an onboard cellular modem, they transmit that data to a shore-based server.

That server processes the data, then uses an RSS feed to deliver any water-quality warnings to people such as parks officials. Those people can in turn decide if beaches should be closed until the contamination passes. Additionally, members of the public can find out about any warnings via a dedicated website.

[\[More\]](#)

Why More Cities Need to Add Up The Economic Value of Trees

Cities routinely rake up tens of millions of dollars annually from their urban forests in ways that are not always obvious. Leafy canopies lower summer air conditioning bills, but more shade also means less grass to maintain. Health-wise, trees contribute to lower asthma rates and birth defects by removing air pollutants.

Tampa demonstrated that kind of thinking in moving its leading tree official, Kathy Beck, from the Parks and Recreation Department onto its chief planning team. Tampa approaches trees as part of a green public works system, the living equivalent of roads and bridges.

The most recent study of Tampa's trees estimated that they save the city nearly \$35 million a year in reduced costs for public health, stormwater management, energy savings, prevention of soil erosion and other services.

Part of how Tampa gets it right on trees is that planners can shield themselves from partisanship, protest and profit motives by relying on science to decide on what, where and how many trees to plant. To get the biggest bang for tree planting and maintenance bucks, Tampa turns to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences for information on which trees provide the greatest shade, which can be planted closest to sidewalks and parking

lots without root growth buckling pavement and which species best withstand floods in a city already impacted by sea level rise. [\[More\]](#)