



# GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

October 14, 2008

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## Calendar of Events

**October 19-21, 2008**  
**Campus & Community Sustainability Conference**  
 University of Central Florida  
 Orlando, FL

**November 19-21, 2008**  
**USGBC GreenBuild Conference**  
 Boston Convention Center  
 Boston, MA

**November 15-16, 2008**  
**E-Fest**  
 Sarasota Polo Grounds  
 Lakewood Ranch, FL

**December 2, 2008**  
**Green Roof**

## Sarasota County Goes Gold

**Sarasota County** achieved the FGBC Green Local Government Designation recently with a score of 47 percent - the highest score to date, making them the second county in the state to achieve the **FGBC Gold certification**.

Long known for its sustainability efforts, Sarasota County leads by example -adopting green cleaning and maintenance practices recommended by the Department of Environmental Protection, and setting the FGBC and LEED green building standards as the official minimum criteria for future government buildings. Other sustainability efforts include encouraging green building in the commercial and residential sector by offering incentives for buildings and developments that meet the FGBC, LEED and EnergyStar standards, and through preservation programs that protect the areas natural beauty and promote eco-tourism.

## ICC Passes Residential Fire Sprinkler Mandate

The International Code Council (ICC) approved a measure to **require residential fire sprinkler systems** in new one- and two-family homes and townhouses. The mandate will be included in the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), and will go into **effect Jan. 1, 2011**. The new mandate will only impact jurisdictions that adopt the 2009 IRC.

## Green Consultants Sought by Enterprise

Enterprise's Green Communities Initiative is soliciting submissions of qualifications for professional services related to providing technical assistance to local affordable housing developers on the design, construction, retrofit, rehabilitation, and the operations and maintenance of green affordable housing. For information on how to submit a response please go to [www.enterprisecommunity.org](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org). Responses to undertake this work must be submitted electronically by Friday, December 5, 2008 with TA Qualifications as the subject heading to email: [greencommunities@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:greencommunities@enterprisecommunity.org)

## HUD Issues \$3.92 Billion Foreclosure Relief

**Infrastructure**

Design & Installation 201  
University of South Florida  
Tampa

**Dec. 12-13, 2008**

**Sustainable****Communities Workshop**

Sarasota, FL

**January 19-24, 2009**

**International Builders****Show**

Las Vegas, Nevada  
Caesar's Palace  
Florida Host Hotel

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**Florida's Portion Totals \$542 Million**

Under HUD's new Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) with total funding of \$3.92 billion, state and local governments can use neighborhood stabilization grants to acquire land and property; to demolish or rehabilitate abandoned properties; and/or to offer downpayment and closing cost assistance to low- to moderate-income homebuyers (household incomes not exceed 120 percent of area median income). In addition, these grantees can create "land banks" to assemble, temporarily manage, and dispose of vacant land for the purpose of stabilizing neighborhoods and encouraging re-use or redevelopment of urban property. The grant allocations are based on the number/percent of foreclosures, subprime mortgages and mortgage defaults and delinquencies within the area. [\[More\]](#) View [Florida allocations](#) by city.

**Articles of Interest****[Kansas Seeks to Build Most Sustainable City](#)**

Greensburg GreenTown has been leading efforts to build the most sustainable and energy-efficient community in America since 2007, when a tornado destroyed nearly 95 percent of the rural Kansas town. The Chain of Eco-Homes Challenge seeks to build a variety of model homes that will demonstrate the latest in residential building technology and green living.

**['Best Green Home' Call for Entries Announced](#)**

Green Builder magazine is on the hunt for the best green homes being built today.

**[GE and GAF Materials Join to Advance Solar Energy](#)**

GE Energy and GAF Materials Corporation (GAF), two companies with more than 100 years of experience in the energy and roofing industries respectively, announced that they have formed a new strategic alliance to market and ultimately develop solar and roofing systems for commercial and residential customers.

Leading the list in dollars allocated for Florida are:

LEE COUNTY	\$18,243,867
PORT ST LUCIE	\$13,523,132
CAPE CORAL	\$7,065,484
MIAMI GARDENS	\$6,866,119
FORT MYERS	\$2,297,318
LAUDERHILL	\$4,293,288

**Clean Diesel Rebate Program Announced**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP) will make available **Clean Diesel Rebates** in an amount equal to **\$1,500 per qualifying vehicle** for eligible applicants that equip their vehicles with auxiliary power units (APUs). Funding for the Clean Diesel Rebate program is limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis starting **March 15, 2009**, and continuing while rebate funds are still available. [\[More\]](#). A rebate form will be available from DEP soon.

[www.dep.state.fl.us/air/rules/CleanDieselRebate.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/air/rules/CleanDieselRebate.htm)

**New Rule Expands Solid Waste Allowed Materials**

A final rule under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act streamlines regulation of hazardous secondary materials when they are recycled by reclamation. EPA estimates that about 5,600 facilities handling approximately 1.5 million tons of hazardous secondary materials annually may be impacted by this rule. The activities most affected are metals and solvent recycling. EPA estimates that the regulation will save approximately \$95 million per year for the affected industries. [\[More\]](#) Read the [rule](#).

**EPA Strategy to Help Manage Water Resources**

### **Geothermal Energy Heats Up**

*Next-Gen Projects Take Shape*

The power of geothermal energy has long been overshadowed by its alternative brothers. A geysers' worth of new projects are about to tap the power of scalding groundwater. Experts say anew technology known as enhanced geothermal systems, or EGS, could one day produce 10 percent of the nation's electricity.

### **Build It Yourself Solar Cell Towers Serve Remote Areas**

VNL, a Swedish-Indian start-up company, has developed an innovative build-it-yourself solar radio tower that consumes about as much energy as a light bulb and is designed to make it easy for people with little professional training to install. VNL's base system will cost \$3,500. The tower-top radio transmitters that form the backbone of mobile networks currently in use are powered with diesel generators and batteries and cost from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

To assist in responding to potential effects of climate change, a new strategy focuses on 40 specific actions for the national water program to take to respond to climate change. EPA's "**National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change**" describes steps for managers to adapt their clean water, drinking water, and ocean protection programs.

"Water is key to clean energy and climate change," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA's assistant administrator for water. "Our water and climate strategy charts a course for timely and practical action, connecting the dots, drops, and watts for coordinated, sustainable results."

EPA water programs are already taking action related to climate change including the WaterSense water efficiency program, green infrastructure for wet weather management, Climate Ready Estuaries, and the proposed national rule for the injection of carbon dioxide underground. The water strategy identifies **specific response actions** in five areas:

- 1. Mitigation of greenhouse gases**
- 2. Adaptation to climate change**
- 3. Research related to water and climate change**
- 4. Education on climate change**
- 5. Water program management of climate change**

Potential impacts of climate change on water resources reviewed in the strategy include increases in certain water pollution problems, changes in availability of drinking water supplies, and collective impacts on coastal areas. The strategy reflects input provided during a public comment period earlier this year. EPA has been working with other federal agencies to coordinate work on climate change and water. Recently, EPA issued a joint memorandum with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, and Interior to describe cooperative efforts on climate change and water issues. [[More](#)]

**Sincerely,**

*Suzanne B. Cook, CAE*  
Executive Director

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