



GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

October 28, 2008

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Calendar of Events

November 5, 2008
Laws & Rules for Florida Engineers

Univ of Florida TREEO Center
3900 SW 63rd Blvd
Gainesville FL 32608

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

City of Tarpon Springs Earns FGBC Silver

The **City of Tarpon Springs** was recently certified at the silver level under the FGBC Green Local Government Designation program. It was the first certification application coordinated by a municipality's Office of Public Safety. The Police Department utilizes **lead-free** (non-toxic) **ammunition** at its firing range. After each use, officers are tasked with cleaning the range and recycling both the bullet residue and spent casings. Simulator training systems employed further reduce the use of environmentally harmful components.

The city adopted the **green cleaning** and maintenance procedures recommended by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in all of its government buildings, which helps reduce the use of hazardous chemicals, thus improving indoor air quality and protecting occupants' health. In addition, Tarpon Springs ordered an extensive energy audit to identify opportunities for **energy conservation** and it encourages its customers to conserve through rate structure and by providing **consumer education**. Employees are encouraged to **carpool** through a preferred parking program, and the city advocates **bicycling** by providing security racks at all public amenities.

Their **landscaping and tree protection ordinance** was written to promote water and energy conservation, and to reduce heat island effect through shading, preservation of existing vegetation, and use of native plants. In the event of a natural or other disaster, a **debris management plan** is in place that calls for a recycling strategy for salvageable materials. Yard waste is regularly collected, recycled as mulch and offered back to the community. Tarpon Springs was also the recipient of the 2007 Florida DEP Wastewater Plant Operations Excellence Award. Congratulations to **Captain Robert Kochen** and his team!

Leon County Seeks Sustainability Manager

Leon County (Tallahassee) has recently approved funding for an **Energy and Sustainability Manager**. The position entails conducting research and analysis to identify, develop, implement and manage innovative and effective programs to improve sustainability and reduce energy consumption and

[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

February 28, 2009

[An Introduction to Valuing Green Buildings](#)

Renaissance Orlando
Resort SeaWorld
6677 Sea Harbor Drive
Orlando, FL
Contact: 407-888-9480
[Register](#)

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Articles of Interest**St. Johns County Utilities Receive EPA Award**

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently recognized the St. Johns County Utilities Pretreatment Program in St. Augustine as a first-place winner in the 2008 National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards. Of the 24 winners, St. Johns was the only Florida program to place. The Clean Water Act Recognition Awards program is sponsored by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management and recognizes municipalities, industries, Tribal Nations, and U.S. military commands for demonstrating outstanding technological achievements or an innovative process, method or device in their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs.

Cosmetic Safety - Best

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from County operations. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, and four years of related experience. [\[More\]](#)

More IRC 2009 Code Changes Ahead

Beyond the sprinkler issue, expect to see more International Residential Code (IRC) 2009 changes in construction requirements for single- and multi-family homes. Among them:

Carbon monoxide alarms. A new provision requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors outside all sleeping areas, with the number required varying by the configuration of the space.

Wall Bracing Requirements. The new code increases the amount of wall bracing needed to resist wind loads for three-story homes, homes with large open plans and homes in high-wind regions. In addition, the new code requires blocking between the roof framing members at braced wall panels for homes with deep truss members or roof joists, or homes in high-wind and high-seismic areas. The new requirements include prescriptive blocking details for these conditions.

The new code will require uplift straps at braced wall panels for many homes, even in low-wind regions. In addition to adding cost, these changes may require revisions to some stock plans or changes to standard detailing practices - not only to bracing, but to blocking requirements and strapping. The blocking requirements may also complicate insulation and attic ventilation practices.

Window Fall Prevention Devices. Builders will now be required to add some sort of fall protection device in the installation of emergency egress windows. While the code says that they cannot hamper the operation of the window or reduce the required opening, there is no standard for fall-prevention devices, so it will be up to the discretion of the building inspector whether a particular device will pass muster and meet the requirements.

Wall and Roof Cladding Inspections. For multifamily builders, the new International Building Code will require wall and roof cladding inspections in high-wind regions. While this may seem sensible in light of the damage that has been observed in hurricanes, the requirement itself is vague and does not specify what elements of the wall and roof cladding system need to be inspected.

Domestic Clothes Dryer Ducts. Require a product available from only one manufacturer and also limits the

Finds

When buying cosmetics, steer clear of ingredients such as lead, mercury, phthalates, and sodium lauryl sulfate. Don't count on product packaging to clearly disclose ingredients. [\[More\]](#) Offers a comprehensive summary of ingredients of concern.

Also check out FDA's Center for Food Safety: www.csan.fda.gov

length of the ducts to 25 feet. The proponents have indicated that the length was proposed in error.

Shower Liner Test. Building inspectors will now be required to observe whether the liners under showers can hold 2 inches of water for 15 minutes without any leaks.

IFC Construction and Design Provisions. A new requirement in the International Fire Code makes fire code officials responsible for inspecting construction outside the home, in addition to inside the home. The change was opposed by NAHB and building code officials, who noted that fire officials are charged with fire prevention, not construction, and do not necessarily have the background to conduct an appropriate inspection.

IECC Code Changes. In previous versions of the International Energy Conservation Code, home builders were permitted to make so-called "equipment trade-offs" when using the performance path - such as substituting a high-efficiency furnace for additional insulation or more expensive windows. The change eliminates that option for home builders, requiring them to make changes in the building envelope to meet code.

Multifamily builders will also see changes in glazing requirements under the IECC. Each unit will only be allowed a maximum of 15% glazing, down from 18%.

The U.S. Department of Energy has said that homes constructed under the 2009 IECC will save at least 15 to 20 percent more energy than homes built under the 2006 version of the code.

Green Local Government Webinar Offered

Southeast Rebuild Collaborative (SRC) is hosting the **Greening Local Government Webinar Series** to explore how local governments can pursue energy efficiency and sustainability, such as energy management, plug in vehicles, and clean energy. The first webinar will be held on **October 30 at 2pm EST** and will cover the **Florida Green Building Coalition Local Green Government Certification program**. The Second webinar will be held on November 12 at 2pm EST and will be on comprehensive energy plan implementation to coincide with recent legislation. SRC is a joint effort of the state energy offices of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. [\[More\]](#)

Other upcoming webinars:

October 21; 1:30 pm EST - ENERGY STAR PC Power Management

October 30: 2:00 pm EST - Session #1: Greening Local

Government

November 13: 2pm EST- Session #2: Greening Local

Government

November 13: 2:00 pm EST -Myths and Barriers to Energy Efficiency

Course Offers Guidelines on Green Appraisals

The East Florida Chapter of the **Appraisal Institute** is offering a presentation designed to help participants identify the relevant components of a sustainable property, learn where to find green resources, evaluate construction costs in the context of long-term benefit, analyze the relevance of green features in the marketplace, provide a reliable estimate of market value, and assess investment risks and rewards as they relate to commercial projects. The course is scheduled for February 28, 2009 in Orlando. [[more](#)]

Green Building Loan Pool Announced

The **Florida Community Loan Fund** has announced a new initiative for encouraging green development in Florida. The **Green Building Loan Pool** is an incentive established with support from the Home Depot Foundation and other investors in order to encourage and assist nonprofit developers to build green affordable housing, supportive housing, and community facilities. This flexible, low-cost financing is available for a limited time. The first offering of the Green Building Loan Pool will accept applications for loans up to \$750,000 until **December 15, 2008**. [[More](#)]

Constitutional Amendments - Where They Stand

Are you still debating what position to take on the proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments? Here's what leading groups say:

Amendment #3 - Under current law, the addition of wind-hardening improvements or renewable energy source devises is considered when property is assessed for property tax purposes. Even for a home under Save Our Homes protection, the added value is initially assessed at full value. If this amendment passes, the legislature may provide an exemption that would prohibit the consideration of these improvements. *Florida TaxWatch, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Association of Realtors, and Florida Home Builders Association support this Amendment.*

Amendment #4 - Would provide property tax exemption for real property that is perpetually used for conservation; and, for land not perpetually encumbered, requires the Legislature to provide classification and assessment of land use for

conservation purposes solely on the basis of character or use (like agriculture is today).

*Florida TaxWatch, Florida Association of Realtors and the Florida Chamber of Commerce **support** this Amendment.*

Amendment #6 - will allow working waterfront property to be assessed on its actual use instead of its highest and best use. Provides tax incentives for landowners who wish to maintain their working waterfront properties and provide public access to Florida's waterways.

*Florida TaxWatch, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Association of Realtors, and Florida Home Builders Association **support** this Amendment.*

Sincerely,

Suzanne B. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

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