



# GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

December 17, 2008

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## President's Message

It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve the Florida Green Building Coalition as your president this year. In my travels throughout the state, I am inspired by your commitment and dedicated efforts to promote green building and the FGBC.

On December 10, 2008, the FGBC Board of Directors held a strategic planning session that resulted in some exciting goals and strategies. We all agreed that the current economy represents opportunity and possibilities for differentiating the FGBC brand. To do this, each of the FGBC committees will be tasked with specific missions and achievements.

We have a very diverse, knowledgeable and passionate membership. Each and every one of you has a special talent, so I encourage you all to actively engage yourself in one of the FGBC committees. FGBC is a volunteer-driven organization - we need your help and expertise to accomplish our goals and to keep Florida at the forefront of Green.

I look forward to meeting each one of you at our Mid-Year Conference scheduled for March 2009 in Orlando. Look for details in the coming weeks.

FGBC wishes all of you and your families Happy Holidays and good fortune for the New Year.

--Jennifer Languell  
FGBC President

## Legislature to Hold Special Session In January

In a joint memo to members of the Florida Legislature, Senate President Jeff Atwater and House Speaker Ray Sansom announced the intention to convene in Special Session from January 5-16, 2008. The purpose of the Special Session is to address state budget shortfalls. The official Call

## Calendar

**January 7, 2009**  
**[Planning For Your Community's Affordable Housing Needs](#)**

Sponsor: Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
Sheraton Suites Plantation  
311 North University Drive  
Plantation, FL

**January 19-24, 2009**  
**[International Builders Show](#)**

Las Vegas, Nevada  
Caesar's Palace  
Florida Host Hotel

**January 27, 2009**  
**[Planning, Financing, & Developing Affordable Housing For Ownership](#)**

Sponsor: Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
8214 Universal Blvd.  
Orlando, FL

**February 10, 2009**  
**[Incorporating Green Design Into Affordable Housing](#)**

Sponsor: Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
8214 Universal Blvd.  
Orlando, FL

**February 28, 2009**  
**[An Introduction to Valuing Green Buildings](#)**

Renaissance Orlando Resort SeaWorld  
6677 Sea Harbor Drive  
Orlando, FL  
Contact: 407-888-9480  
Register

**March 17, 2009**  
**[The Development Process - CORE](#)**

Sponsor: Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
Hyatt Regency Miami  
400 South East Second Avenue  
Miami, FL

**May 27-29, 2009**  
**[National Green Builders Products Expo \(NGBPE\)](#)**

Las Vegas Convention Center  
Las Vegas, NV  
PH: 800-859-9247

to Special Session will be released before January 5, 2008.

## FESC to Develop Florida's Strategic Energy Plan

*State provides \$50 Million in Funding*

The Florida Energy Systems Consortium, created in the energy bill (HB-7135) signed into law by Gov. Charlie Crist in June of this year, will bring together the state's 11 public universities to work on new solar, biomass and other renewable energy technologies. The state will provide at least \$50 million in funding to be divided among four core institutions - Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida, and the University of South Florida. [[More](#)]

## NAHB Unveils Systems-Built Housing Certification

NAHBGreen verification is now available for modular homes, bringing the green building certification process to the industry that produces a fifth of the nation's housing stock. The Modular Green Approved program was unveiled by the National Association of Home Builders. Modular Green is a new service offered by the NAHB Research Center, which also administers the National Green Building Certification program for traditionally built homes -- the verification service launched in February 2008 as part of NAHBGreen. [[More](#)]

## Green Affordable Housing Study Released

A new report, titled "Sustainable, Affordable, Doable", features the stories of eight Green Communities projects as told by the community leaders who developed them. The free report adds to the body of literature on green affordable housing by describing the realities of developing green affordable homes for low-income people, tracing the major stages in the development process. Download the [report](#)

## Crist Names Energy-Climate Commission

Governor Charlie Crist has named the following seven new appointments to the Florida Governor's **Action Team on Energy and Climate Change**. The team will consist of 21 members appointed by the Governor and is charged with developing Florida's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan.

**Kathy Baughman McLeod**, of Tallahassee, deputy chief of staff, Office of Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink

**Nils J. Diaz**, of St. Pete Beach, chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

## Articles of Interest

### **NBI Releases LEED Performance Study**

The New Buildings Institute works with national, regional, state and utility groups to promote improved energy performance in commercial new construction, managing projects involving building research, design guidelines and code activities. Additionally, NBI serves as a carrier of ideas between states and regions, researchers and the market.

NBI has just released the broadest study to-date of measured energy performance of LEED buildings. The study gathered whole building energy data from 121 LEED NC buildings across the country that had been occupied for at least one year.

On average, LEED buildings are delivering the anticipated savings, performing 25-30% better than national average or modeled baselines. Individual building results, however, display a high degree of scatter, with some performing much better than average and some much worse. These and other results from this exploratory study suggest several opportunities for improved feedback tools, follow-up research on actual performance factors, improved modeling guidelines, and LEED program refinements. [\[More\]](#)

### **Is German Energy A Model for Obama?**

While the rest of the economy plunges into recession, Germany's solar power industry is full of optimism, fat order books and factories humming at full capacity - in stark contrast to the surrounding economic gloom. Throughout eastern Germany's "Solar Valley," manufacturers are racing to keep up with global

**Howell L. Ferguson**, of Tallahassee, chief executive officer, Lykes Bros

**Nicholas C. Gladding**, of Sarasota, attorney, Ruden McClosky

**Debra S. Harrison**, of Marathon, Florida, director, World Wildlife Fund

**Timothy T. Jackson**, of Orlando, chief executive officer, Glatting Jackson Kercher & Anglin

**James F. Murley**, of Miami, director, Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions

## Green Building Impact Report Issued

The *Green Building Impact Report*, issued by GreenerBuildings.com, is an integrated assessment of the land, water, energy, material and indoor environmental impacts of the LEED for New Construction (LEED NC), Core & Shell (LEED CS) and Existing Building Operations and Maintenance (LEED EBOM) standards. The report attempts to answer whether commercial green buildings live up to their name. [\[More\]](#)

## Metro Orlando Signs MOU with FGBC

The **Home Building Association of Metro Orlando** (Metro Orlando), one of the State's most influential local home building associations, recently signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) supporting the FGBC Green Home and Green Development standards.

Metro Orlando President **Jim Cooper** and FGBC Board member **Stephanie Thomas-Rees** coordinated the efforts between the two organizations. Through the partnership, both groups will strive to promote the FGBC Standards and provide education on the benefits of green building to industry professionals and the public.

## Solar Power's Next Game-Changing Technologies

When it comes to solar technology, no one is better equipped to separate the genuine potential from the hype than the **Department of Energy**, which spearheads the country's solar research efforts. So it's worth noting that the DOE's choice for the brand-new 205-kilowatt solar installation on the roof of its Washington, D.C., headquarters, unveiled in September, was the unique high-efficiency solar panels built by Silicon Valley-based SunPower Corporation.

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman called the choice "both

demand for solar panels and the state-of-the-art machinery that makes them, even though share prices have fallen sharply this week. "There's no recession here," said Frank Asbeck, the founder of SolarWorld AG, the world's third-largest photovoltaic company, which makes everything from solar-grade silicon to solar cells and solar panels. [\[More\]](#)

#### **Automakers May Face New Standards**

A vote last week by a state regulatory commission means auto manufacturers may have to revamp the cars and trucks they sell in Florida to meet a tough new emissions standard. Despite pleas from automakers about hard economic times, the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission voted 6-1 to adopt California's tougher emissions standard as proposed by Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. State lawmakers and federal regulators will have to approve the new rule for it to take effect as planned in 2013. Car and truck emissions currently account for about 40 percent of greenhouse gases produced in Florida. [\[More\]](#)

#### **Initiatives Provide Opportunity for Green Jobs, Energy Independence, Emissions Reductions**

City and county elected leaders from across America today kicked off "Local Climate Action Week" to highlight innovative climate initiatives and draw attention to hundreds of clean energy projects that are ready-to-go and could quickly create green jobs in their communities. Hundreds of local officials called on President-elect Obama and Congress to invest stimulus dollars and long-term resources to fund local government projects that create green jobs, reduce energy consumption and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

practical and symbolic," and he was right. It's practical because, earlier this year, SunPower's silicon photovoltaic cells demonstrated an efficiency of 23.4 percent-a record for large-scale, mass-produced cells. SunPower uses what's called a "back-contact" design, which means that all the electrical contacts are on the back of a cell, leaving a larger area on the front of the cell exposed to the sun. Such designs have always been efficient, but it's only in the last few years that manufacturing costs have become competitive.

It's also symbolic, because SunPower provides a glimpse of what it takes to successfully bring a solar technology to market. Its back-panel PV design was developed at Stanford University in the early 1980s, and the company was founded in 1985. That's a long time to get the product from the lab to the consumer, notes Larry Kazmerski, the director of the National Center for Photovoltaics at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). "We have to shorten that timeline," he says.

For SunPower, at least, the wait is over. With PV cells that the company boasts as 50 percent more efficient than conventional crystalline silicon cells, SunPower is moving full steam ahead, most recently with an agreement to build a 250-megawatt "solar ranch" in the California Valley. The project should begin delivering power in 2010 and will be-at least temporarily-the largest PV installation in the world.

#### **Ban on Use of Nitrogen Fertilizer Proposed**

A model ordinance that would ban the use or sale of fertilizers with nitrogen from June 1 through Sept. 30 - the summer rainy season - was approved by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program's policy and management board. [\[More\]](#)

#### **Beware of 'Energy Vampire' Standby Power**

Energy Star says that the average U.S. household spends \$100 annually to power devices while they are in standby mode. On a national basis, this power accounts for more than 100 billion kilowatt hours of annual U.S. electricity consumption and more than \$10 billion in yearly energy costs.

Among suggestions provided by Energy Star to enable consumers to "slay the energy vampires" in their homes:

Look for Energy Star when shopping. All Energy Star qualified products are among the lowest power consuming in their category in standby mode.

Enable the Energy Star power management settings on

Dozens of communities nationwide are holding local events to highlight the potential for green jobs and climate solutions at the local level. [\[More\]](#)

computers and monitors so they go into power save mode when not in use.

Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when done using equipment, which completely disconnects the power supply. One can be used for a computer and all its peripheral equipment, and another for home electronics (TV, VCR, DVD, stereo, gaming). However, if a timer has been set to wake up a product, such as programming a Digital Video Recorder (DVR) to record a program, then the product must remain plugged in (and able to draw standby power) to function as intended.

Unplug chargers. Cell phone chargers, camera chargers, battery chargers or power adapters, etc. draw some amount of energy even they are not being used - even when they are not connected to an end-use product.

[\[More\]](#)

**Sincerely,**

*Suzanne B. Cook, CAE*  
Executive Director