



GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

July 18, 2008

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GreenTrends 2008 Offers Green Housing Tour

The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) has announced it will host a **Green Development Housing Tour** on **Saturday, August 2** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the certified green development of **Oakland Park** during the joint FGBC GreenTrends 2008/SEBC event in Orlando. Oakland Park is an FGBC certified "Green Development," the first in Central Florida, and the first certified green Traditional Neighborhood Development in Florida. In addition to the community being certified green, all of the homes in the Oakland Park neighborhood are built to the FGBC Green Home Standards. This is a self-guided housing tour. Representatives will be available in Oakland Park to highlight the green features of the individual homes and the development. The GreenTrends [schedule](#) is available on the [FGBC website](#).

Members are reminded that the **FGBC General Membership annual meeting** is set for **Friday, August 1, 2008 at 4 p.m.** in Salons 11 & 12 at the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Dr, Orlando, FL 32819. A Welcome Reception will follow at 6 p.m. Members will need to present their FGBC membership card to attend both events. There will be a \$25 fee to attend the reception for members NOT REGISTERED for the GreenTrends Conference.

Register online at: www.SEBCshow.com or onsite.

Dozens of New Laws Take Effect in State

Power companies in Florida face limits on greenhouse gases, and hurricane premiums charged by a state-backed insurer will be frozen for another year under dozens of new state laws going into effect. The greenhouse gas provision is part of a new law that will put many energy and climate change policies into effect. It directs state regulators to set up a cap-and-trade program to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. [[More](#)]

For a summary of 2008 Legislative issues, read the FGBC [Legislative Bill Update - May](#).

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Calendar of Events

July 30-Aug 2, 2008

[FGBC GreenTrends Conference](#)

Orange County Convention Ctr
Orlando, FL

August 15, 2008

[Florida League of Cities Expo](#)
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, FL

September 15-16, 2008

[Affordable Housing Conference](#)

Rosen Shingle Creek
Orlando, FL

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

Articles of Interest

[New green construction technologies being tested in New Orleans as the city rebuilds](#)

[Governor, FPL set to approve solar plants](#)

DeSoto County will get one of the three solar power projects planned for Florida

Nearly 39,000 Florida Power & Light customers gave the company \$11.4 million over four years to develop green energy, but a report released Monday shows that most of the money went toward administrative and marketing costs. [\[More\]](#)

Feds Fine Homebuilders for Water Pollution

Florida included in the states with most violations

Four of the nation's largest homebuilders have agreed to pay \$4.3 million in fines for failing to control runoff at construction sites in 34 states and the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency and Justice Department announced Wednesday. The four companies - Centex Corp. of Dallas, KB Home of Los Angeles, Pulte Homes Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and M.D.C. Holdings Inc. of Denver - also agreed to take steps above what is required by law to keep 1.2 billion pounds of sediment out of the nation's waterways. [\[More\]](#)

Nuclear Plants Approved for Levy County

For the second time in four months, Florida's Public Service Commission has approved nuclear expansion in Florida, this time for two new nuclear plants in southern Levy County. The PSC on Tuesday approved Progress Energy's request for new reactors in Levy County about eight miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico, about 10 miles north of Crystal River near Inglis. [\[More\]](#)

PSC Approves FPL Commercial Solar Plants

Florida Power & Light, already the biggest generator of solar power in the country, won unanimous approval from the Florida Public Service Commission to make its customers pay for a \$688-million plan to build the first commercial-scale solar plants in Florida. [\[More\]](#)

Extended Term Sought for Homebuyer Tax Credit

NAHB Calls for Grassroots Action

In a major grassroots effort, NAHB is urging its members to contact their U.S. senators and representatives and ask them to have the effective date of the proposed home buyer tax credit extended for an additional 90 days to make it as effective as possible in turning around the current downturn in home sales. [\[Call to Action\]](#)

USGBC to Outsource LEED Certification

In a move that will likely have far-reaching ramifications for

by Florida Power & Light.

[NAHB Certifies First Gold-Level Home](#)

Delaware builder estimates it cost less than 1 percent to reach top green certification level

[Toyota Gets Aggressive in Modular Housing](#)

Toyota is looking to apply its eco-friendly image and technical know-how to help boost sales of its pre-fabricated housing division. Toyota's home sales have risen slowly in the past three decades, peaking at just over 5,000 units in 2006 before falling to 4,600 units last year during a national slump in the housing market. This year, the company hopes to reach sales of 5,000 homes again. It has set a longer-term goal of selling 7,000 homes a year but hasn't set a specific deadline to reach that.

[Sarasota Design Conference: Talk about architectural salvage](#)

As green is the color du jour in the shelter industry, it's only fitting that the 10th Sarasota Design Conference's opening reception culminated with a showing of 'Scrap House,' a documentary about a house made entirely of recycled content.

[Panel Explores Pasco Green Building Ordinance Proposal](#)

Incentives and costs of 'green' building codes were dissected recently as a Pasco Building Association group examined the second draft of a proposed Pasco County environmentally friendly construction ordinance.

[DOE Offers \\$130 Million to Advance Fuel Cell Technology](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for up to \$130 million over three years, subject to Congressional appropriations, to advance the development and use of fuel cells for automotive, stationary, and portable power applications. DOE's announcement is part of the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative that accelerates the pace of

the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and its influential LEED rating systems, the organization has announced that as of January 2009 it will no longer certify buildings. That responsibility will pass to independent, accredited certifiers overseen by USGBC's sister nonprofit corporation, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

WaterSense Offers Certification for Houses

Since 2006, the WaterSense program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has labeled water-efficient lavatory faucets, toilets, and weather- and sensor-based irrigation systems. EPA now plans to extend the label to whole houses using specifications that will be finalized by the end of 2008. [\[more\]](#)

Solar Panels to Power Collier County Schools

Marco Island resident Gary Elliott and Collier schools Superintendent Dennis Thompson are exploring the possibility of a school district-business partnership that could bring solar power to some Collier County schools.

Elliott is calling his business venture Solar Power & Light, but he has registered the business as Future Friendly Fuels. Elliott, who owns Interiors, Interiors, Interiors on Marco Island, partnered with Keith Klipstein, also an island resident who works for Lutgert Insurance, to start the venture. The plan would bring solar power to Collier County schools and, specifically Marco Island. That plan hinges on Gov. Charlie Crist's signature on Florida House Bill 7135, which gives tax credits necessary to make the venture possible. [\[More\]](#)

FHBA Sets My Safe Florida Home Forum

To seek input on the future of the My Safe Florida Home program, which will be up for legislative review in the 2009 Legislative Session, the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) has invited over 1,800 of the program's approved contractors to attend a special forum on Thursday, July 31, from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

Dwell Green Tops List of FGBC Certified Homes

A home built by **DwellGreen**, a construction company located in North Port, has recently received the highest score issued under the Florida Green Home Certification Standard administered by the Florida Green Building Coalition. Earning **260 points** within a 100-point rating system, the high-performance home integrates the latest construction technology with whole-house system design. [\[More\]](#)

research and development (R&D) for hydrogen-powered fuel cells. In addition to the FOA opportunity, today DOE expanded its own fleet of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles with the addition of a Chevrolet Equinox fuel cell electric vehicle.

[Company Produces "Green" Crude Oil and Gasoline from Algae](#)

Sapphire Energy announced last week that it has produced "green" gasoline from a synthetic crude oil made from algae. The algae yield a crude oil replacement that is literally green, and according to the company, the "green crude" meets fuel quality standards and is completely compatible with the existing petroleum infrastructure, from refinement through distribution to retail suppliers. Gasoline produced from the green crude achieved a 91 octane rating while meeting fuel quality standards. Sapphire Energy considers the achievement to be at the forefront of an entirely new industrial category, called "green crude production."

[Algae Bio-Fuels Successfully Tested](#)

Cyclone Power Technologies announced that it has successfully run its revolutionary external combustion Cyclone Engine on fuels derived from pure algae. The company reported that algae fuel burned cleanly and with greater thermal efficiency than previous tests on Ethanol and other alcohol-based fuels. Additionally, the bio-fuels tested were 100% pure algae with no diesel additives, which means that the refining process required for use in the Cyclone Engine would be less expensive and less time intensive than the process required for use in today's diesel engines.

[Callaway Gardens\(R\) Leads Southeast with Largest Wind Power Commitment](#)

Callaway Gardens, a 13,000-acre resort in Georgia has offset all of its electricity use with renewable energy by

Zimms Tapped as 2008 Recycler of the Year

Contributions in waste reduction span over a decade

Recycle Florida Today (RFT), Florida's statewide recycling association and trade group, has selected **Miriam Zimms** as 2008 **Recycler of the Year**. The award was presented during the RFT Annual Conference and Exhibition in St. Petersburg Beach. Zimms was honored for her contribution over the years to the organization, and her involvement since 1992 in waste reduction, recycling, and green programs in both the private and public sector.

Languell to Host Discovery Channel Program

'Project Earth' Airs Aug 22, 9 p.m.

Be sure to tune in to **Discovery Channel** on Friday, **August 22 at 9 p.m.** for 'Project Earth' hosted by our own **Dr. Jennifer Languell**. Some of the world's leading scientists meet three uncompromising visionaries to put the most ambitious geo-engineering ideas to the test, tackling global climate change. Each test will push the boundaries of science and technology, but will they produce groundbreaking environmental results? Working with the scientists on these innovative experiments is the DISCOVERY PROJECT EARTH task force, each with a unique specialty: Jennifer Languell, the tough talking eco-house-building engineer; Basil Singer, the scientific boy wonder; and finally, the businessman who can fund the impossible, venture capitalist, Kevin O'Leary.

Manatee-Sarasota Emissions Leave Big Footprint

Industrial smokestacks, the kind that visibly spew pollutants into the air, don't dominate the landscape in Manatee and Sarasota counties. As a result, the common perception is that the air is free of pollutants. The Brookings Institution challenged that perception recently with the release of a national report. It concluded that the Bradenton-Sarasota-Venice metropolitan area has a very high per capita rate of carbon emissions from transportation and residential uses. [\[More\]](#)

Orange County Gets First Ethanol Station

Mayor Crotty Leads by Example

A new Ethanol station is part of Orange County Mayor Richard T. Crotty's "Orange to Green" initiative, a strategy to place Orange County in the forefront of the worldwide movement to reduce greenhouse gases. The station will service a growing number of county vehicles that use the new fuel option. Orange County currently utilizes 92 Flex Fuel vehicles and 31 Hybrids in their fleet. E-85 is a blended fuel that is 85%

purchasing 21,000,000-kilowatt hours of renewable energy credits (RECs). Callaway is the Southeast's first resort to embrace wind energy with a 100 percent annual commitment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that this purchase helps avoid the same amount of CO2 emissions produced by nearly 2,990 passenger vehicles annually or the electricity use of 2,162 average American homes. The renewable power being produced from off-site energy farms is not only less polluting but helps conserve the nation's natural resources.

[As energy costs soar, America looks to solar](#)

The tipping point at which the world's cleanest, most renewable resource is cost-competitive with other sources of energy on electricity grids could happen within two to five years in some U.S. regions and countries if the price of fossil fuels continues to rise at its current pace, they add.

[House approves funds for 'green' schools](#)

The House committed more than \$20 billion over the next five years to help states build and renovate schools to make them more energy-efficient and good for the environment.

[GreenWise opens in Boca](#) with popular elements of first store.

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Ethanol; a renewable fuel made from corn grown right here in the USA. Nationally, the price of E-85 is 15-20 percent less than unleaded gas. [\[More\]](#)

St. Petersburg Forges Ahead with Green Plans

Mayor Rick Baker has worked steadily to build a reputation as a pragmatic but socially conscience environmental champion during his two terms in office. Now he has begun a quiet, ambitious campaign to make St. Petersburg Florida's greenest city. 'We are already becoming that model,' Baker said. 'If we see a good idea that works, we just do it.' Starting this month, the city plans to install energy-efficient lighting systems at the Mahaffey Theater and South Core garages. The new lights are eight times more durable than regular light bulbs, said Mike Connors, the city's internal services administrator. The lighting upgrade is part of a citywide effort to convert every streetlight to energy-efficient light bulbs over the next several years.

The city has also issued a mandate to its procurement department to purchase environmentally sound products such as low phosphate detergents and recycled paper whenever possible. The city will seek approval from the City Council to allow developers who embrace national environmental building standards to build larger than normal structures. The 'density credits,' as Connors called the program, essentially would provide incentives for developers to adopt green standards. Baker also hopes every city will run on biodiesel or ethanol fuel by August. [\[More\]](#)

Volusia Launches Green Program

The **Volusia Home Builders Association** recently unveiled its **green building initiative**. During a press conference, VHBA presented a model ordinance for local governments to adopt in an effort to help promote green building practices. Additionally, VHBA has established a Green Building Council, and they have launched a new green building website. [\[More\]](#)

Kitson Names New Environmental Director

Newcomb-Jones Takes Reigns

Carol Newcomb-Jones has been named Director of Environmental Affairs for Kitson & Partners. Carol will be serving as K&P's environmental in-house expert and will work on special projects for both the Communities Division and the Commercial Division, as well as working closely with executive management on sustainable development issues. Carol will be working from Kitson & Partners' company headquarters in Palm Beach Gardens.

FGBC New Address

Please notify your company's appropriate departments that the FGBC mailing address has changed:

FGBC
3389 Plowshare Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32309-9755

Sincerely,

Suzanne B. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

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