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## Certification News

**Local Governments:**  
**City of Dunedin**  
 Certified: 10/6/11  
 (Upgrade)  
 Level: Gold  
 Points: 47%

## Appraisal Institute Issues "Green" Features Form

The Appraisal Institute (AI) recently released a form intended to help real estate appraisers analyze values of energy-efficient home features. It is the first of its kind intended for appraisers' use. The form was issued as an optional addendum to Fannie Mae Form 1004, the appraisal industry's most widely used form for mortgage lending purposes. Currently, the contributory value of a home's green features is rarely part of the equation. AI is claiming the form will standardize the way residential energy-efficient features are analyzed and reported.

AI's addendum allows appraisers to identify and describe a home's green features, from solar panels to energy-saving appliances. Fannie Mae's Form 1004 devotes limited attention to energy-efficient features, so green data usually doesn't appear in the appraisal report, or it is included in a lengthy narrative that often is overlooked. AI also thinks the form will make it easier for appraisers to determine whether recent home sales should be used as comparable sales. Sales that are truly comparable are key components in determining a property's value. [[More](#)]

## Miami PACE Fund Invests \$650M for Green Retrofits

### Commitment By Branson-Led Group Could Provide First Real Test of Market For Privately Funded PACE Energy Efficiency Loans Subheading

A business consortium has announced the largest single private-sector investment to date in commercial property energy retrofits and upgrades, providing new impetus to the promise of green technology to create jobs and help jump start the economy.

The announcement by the consortium formed by British billionaire entrepreneur Richard Branson that it will provide up to \$650 million for retrofit projects in Miami-Dade County, FL, and Sacramento, CA, served as a sharp counterpoint to public skepticism over government-funded green technology and energy efficiency programs stemming from publicity over a

**Commercial Buildings  
Tropical Farms  
Laboratory &  
Workshop**

Certified 8/31/11  
Version: 1  
Points: 50

**"Florida Green" Homes  
3,822 as of 8/31/11**

**Quick Links**

[Join FGBC](#)

[Linkedin Group](#)

[Facebook Blog](#)

**Calendar**

**October 29, 2011  
Smart Planning  
for Sustainable  
Development**

(Webinar)  
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
[Register](#)

**October 24-25, 2011  
Sustainable Florida  
Conference**

Turnbull Conference  
Center  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**November 2-5, 2011  
EcoWeek-Florida Keys**

Key West, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**November 10, 2011  
FGBC Certifying Agent  
Annual Verification  
Course**

Miami, FL  
[Register](#)

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**Article of Interest**

**Boulder Requires HERS  
Target Scores**

The City of Boulder and

failed solar panel manufacturer.

It also serves as a major endorsement by the private sector for efforts to build a nationwide financial foundation for commercial energy projects under Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). PACE legislation allows state and local agencies to set up programs for commercial landlords and other owners to obtain financing for such energy projects as solar installations, reflective roofs and lighting, window and HVAC upgrades, which borrowers can repay through lien-based special assessments on their property taxes over 15 to 20 years. [\[More\]](#)

**DEP to Propose Rule for Statewide Environmental Permits**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will propose a statewide rule to eliminate major permitting inconsistencies among the states' five water management districts. While wetlands permitting is essentially identical among the districts, stormwater management permitting differs substantially, according to a Senate committee report.

The Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) covers numerous construction activities involving wetlands, stormwater runoff and submerged state lands, and impacts a variety of construction projects, including residential developments, sea walls, and ports.

Several groups have expressed concern about the details of whatever eventually is proposed. Legislation will be required before rulemaking begins, but ratification by the Legislature may or may not be required.

**FGBC Certifying Agent Class Set for Nov 10**

Keep your FGBC Certifying Agent "Active" status the easy way - by attending the FGBC Annual Verification Course on November 10 in North Miami. This is the last class of the year so seize the day! Cost \$125. Reserve your seat now. [\[Register\]](#)

November 10, 2011 (Thursday) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Gwen Margolis Center  
1590 NE 123rd Street  
North Miami, FL 33161

Thanks to our host, the City of North Miami, for providing the venue.

**PSC to Decide on Nuclear Recovery Costs - Oct 24**

Boulder County have joined the ranks of other local governments that are requiring new homes to achieve a RESNET HERS Index target as part of the jurisdiction's building code. Among its provisions, the program requires that new homes must meet a maximum HERS Index score of 70 for single-family homes up to 3,000sf. The HERS Index requirement varies by the size of the home and whether the home is a single or multi-family building. [\[More\]](#)

#### **ACEEE Seeks COO**

ACEEE is seeking an experienced manager with energy efficiency experience to serve as a member of their senior management team and to play a lead role in their operations. The position oversees ACEEE's finance, human resources, and IT systems, as well as an ACEEE research program. The position description is available on the ACEEE website. [\[Position\]](#)

#### **FGBC Committee Meetings**

##### **Affordable Housing**

3rd Thursday-monthly  
10 a.m.

##### **Board of Directors**

3rd Wednesday-monthly  
3 p.m.

##### **Commercial**

1st Tuesday-monthly  
3 p.m.

The Florida Public Service Commission staff is recommending approval of more than \$300 million requested by Florida Power & Light Co. and Progress Energy for planned new nuclear power plants and existing plant upgrades.

Meanwhile, Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, again has filed a bill for 2012 that would repeal the 2006 law that allows utilities to collect money for new nuclear and coal gasification plants regardless of whether they are ever built. And Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, is looking to amend similar language to a bill in the 2012 session, an aide to the senator said.

Florida Power & Light Co. this year requested approval of \$196 million in cost recovery for upgrading nuclear units and for planning of two new nuclear units at Turkey Point. The average residential customer who now pays 33 cents per month now would pay \$2.09 for nuclear charges in 2012, according to FPL.

Progress Energy requested \$140 million towards a proposed new nuclear plant in Levy County and for upgrading its nearby Crystal River nuclear plant. The average residential customer who now pays \$5.53 per month now would pay \$4.68 for nuclear charges in 2012, according to Progress Energy.

The Public Service Commission held two weeks of public hearings on the requests in August. The commission is holding a special meeting on Oct. 24 to decide the issue.

#### **Dunedin Earns FGBC Gold**

The City of Dunedin has achieved the gold-level FGBC Green Local Government certification through the program's upgrade option. Originally certified in 2007 at the silver level, Dunedin recently earned 47 percent of the maximum applicable points and now holds the highest score achieved by any city, matched only by Sarasota County. Congratulations to Dunedin for their continued commitment. View a summary of Dunedin's green achievements on the FGBC website in the "Directories" section under "project search." [\[View\]](#)

#### **U of FL Receives \$6M to Fund Biofuel Production**

The University of Florida has received a \$6.3 million grant for the commercial production of Terpene, a biofuel derived from pine trees. The pine tree developed for this project is designed both to increase the turpentine storage capacity of

**Hi-Rise Residential**  
3rd Wednesday-monthly  
11 a.m.

**Homes**  
2nd Thursday-monthly  
2 p.m.

**Land Development**  
4th Wednesday-monthly  
4 p.m.

**Local Government**  
1st Tuesday-monthly  
10:30 a.m.

**Membership  
Committee**  
3rd Thursday-monthly

**Programs &  
Promotions**  
3rd Thursday-monthly  
1 p.m.

## DOE Funding Programs

DOE has wide range of funding programs available for renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.

Check out these websites for eligibility and details:

[Loan Programs](#)

[Geothermal](#)

[Solar](#)

[Wind & Water](#)

the wood and to increase turpentine production from 3 percent to 20 percent. The fuel produced from these trees would become a sustainable domestic biofuel source able to produce 100 million gallons of fuel per year from less than 25,000 acres of forestland.

## Just For Kids: DOE Home Energy Challenge Launched

In the America's Home Energy Education Challenge, participating schools compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes. The program, which runs from September through December 2011 is designed to teach students and their families about energy, energy use, and the correlation between saving energy and saving money to encourage them to implement energy savings techniques at home. Teachers, students and families can participate in two ways: (1) Home Energy Challenge and, (2) Energy Fitness Award. This looks like a great awareness campaign for our future generation. Get your kids or grandkids involved. [[More](#)]

## Hybrid Ground Source Heat Pumps Proving Efficient, Affordable

A recent report, Hybrid Ground-Source Heat Pump Installations: Experiences, Improvements and Tools - demonstrates that hybrid ground-source heat pumps (GSHP) are a viable solution to reduce energy use in commercial buildings. The report finds that new hybrid systems dramatically decrease up-front costs while delivering financial and environmental benefits nearly equivalent to standard ground-source heat pumps. With its lower price, hybrid GSHP technology could be deployed widely, saving energy and money in new and existing commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings, according to the report. The study validated hybrid systems as a cost-effective alternative to traditional ground-source heat pump systems. Case studies were conducted in climates with different heating and cooling needs.

All GSHP systems have benefits such as saving money and reducing fossil fuel usage. In standard GSHP systems, also known as geothermal heat pumps, a large underground heat exchanger made from a loop of plastic pipes is buried or drilled into the ground. A fluid circulates through the pipes, to move heat between the in-ground heat exchanger and a heat pump, which regulates building temperature. The upfront installation cost for this underground loop is significant, up to half the cost of the entire system, but necessary to achieve the desired temperature levels.

With the hybrid system, the size of the underground loop is drastically smaller, making drilling less expensive and less invasive. To compensate for the smaller loop system, conventional technology (such as cooling towers or boilers) is used to meet a portion of the peak heating or cooling needs. Balancing the load of the GSHP with traditional HVAC equipment lowers up-front costs, while still providing the energy efficiency of a GSHP. This study showed that due to typical building load fluctuations, the standard equipment runs so infrequently it doesn't substantially reduce the energy savings.