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What I'm Thankful For

For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head

I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know

Thankful that I've been blessed beyond
measure
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest
treasure



Bless this food provided
And bless each and every person invited
--based on a poem by Scott Wesemann

The FGBC Board of Directors and staff wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving.

To our FGBC members, a special thank-you for being a part of FGBC and working with us to build better communities.

DEP Recycling Tracking Tool Aims To Help Businesses Meet 2020 Goal

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is expanding its Recycling Recognition Program to encourage the commercial industry, schools, public groups and citizens to increase recycling in order to reach Florida's recycling goal of 75 percent by 2020.

Florida's 75 percent recycling goal was set by the state Legislature and focuses on municipal solid waste and does not include industrial solid waste. Some common types of municipal solid waste include newspapers, office paper, glass and plastic bottles and food waste. The most recent data shows the residential sector has about a 42 percent recycling rate, while the commercial sector is at roughly 44 percent and overall, Florida recycles at about a 43 percent rate. In order for Florida to meet the 75 percent goal, it is critical for both the private sector and residential sector to increase recycling rates.

Certification News

Local Government

City of Gainesville

Certified: 10/31/12
Score: 36%
Level: Silver

Miami-Dade County

Certified: 10/30/12
Score: 57%
Level: Gold

Osceola County

Certified: 10/17/12
Score: 32%
Level: Silver

Certification Counts

"Florida Green" Certifications To Date

Homes

1,200 Homes in 2012
5,300 total as of 11/6/12

Commercial Buildings

Registered: 15
Certified: 7

Hi-Rise

Registered: 4
Certified: 1

Land Development

Registered: 61
Certified: 12

Local Government

Registered: 56
Certified: 44

Multi-Family

In 2012
26 Buildings
302 Units

Florida Water Star Certifications NFWMD and SRWMD Areas

3 Homes in 2012

Education Opportunities

**December 7, 2012
Certifying Agent
Annual Active Status
Verification Course**

Gainesville, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

The DEP has an easy tool for companies to track and compare its recycling efforts to that of other businesses -- the [Business Recycling Tracking Tool](#). Through the website, which includes free registration, companies can track different types of recycling efforts and produce reports on how those efforts are helping to shrink their carbon footprint. The tracking will help as the Department provides recognition to companies that are doing more to go green. [\[More\]](#)

Johnson Controls Offers Energy Monitoring Tools

Johnson Controls has opened a new cloud-based apps marketplace intended to help commercial-building owners and operators save energy and money. Among others, these include apps that keep track of tenants' utilities, monitor buildings' energy performance and display the amount of carbon emissions for which each building or group of buildings is responsible. The idea is to help building owners and managers see energy trends across buildings, making it easier for them to find ways to reduce energy consumption, for example, or to see anomalies that could indicate fixable problems.

The apps are all based on Johnson Controls' Panoptix energy-management platform, introduced last year. The company earlier this month made its application programming interfaces (APIs) available to developers so they could begin designing apps for the marketplace. [\[More\]](#)

Owens-Corning Insulation Receives ISO Environmental Certification

Owens Corning has announced receipt of UL-certified ISO compliant [Environmental Product Declarations](#) (EPDs) for its Unfaced and Kraft-Faced EcoTouch® PINK® FIBERGLAS™ Insulation with PureFiber® Technology and its Unbonded LooseFill Insulation. An EPD is an internationally recognized, standardized tool that reports the environmental impact of goods or services.

An industry first for fiberglass building insulation in North America, the EPDs describe the environmental impact of the insulation products based upon an established set of product category rules and independently verified life cycle assessment (LCA) data from cradle-to-grave. Through the LCA process, products are evaluated on several parameters including raw materials production and transportation, product manufacturing and plant operations, product packaging, transportation and distribution of the insulation products, and end of life impact.

According to Owens-Corning, typically, a pound of insulation saves 12 times as much energy in its first year in place as the

April 24-25, 2013
FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course
Florida Solar Energy Center
Cocoa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

August 21-22, 2013
FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course
Florida Solar Energy Center
Cocoa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

Calendar of Events

Dec. 10-12, 2012
Habitat for Humanity-Florida State Conference
Mission Inn
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL
[\[More\]](#)

Jan. 22-24, 2013
International Builders Show
Las Vegas, NV
[\[More\]](#)

Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2013
MiaGreen Expo
Miami Beach Convention Center
Miami Beach, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

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FGBC Committee Meetings

Affordable Housing

3rd Thursday
Monthly
10 a.m.

Board of Directors

2nd Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

Commercial

1st Tuesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

Education

1st Thursday
Monthly
2 p.m.

energy used to produce it. That means the energy consumed during manufacturing is saved during the first four to five weeks of product use. [\[More\]](#)

Better Community Award Nominations Close Feb 2013

Each year, 1000 Friends of Florida honors successful efforts to save special places, fight sprawl, and build better communities in Florida. The awards recognize individuals, organizations, public-private partnerships, local governments, agencies, and projects that have enhanced the quality of life in a community.

Categories include:

- Better Community Award - for plans that have been implemented and projects that are completed that use the principles of smart growth to create livable, vital environments.
- Community Steward Award - for individuals, organizations, local governments, agencies, and public/private partnerships that have brought about positive and lasting change in the way their community manages growth.
- Bill Sadowski Award - for a public servant at the regional or state level whose work exemplifies the high level of commitment to growth management and the philosophy of negotiation for which the former DCA Secretary was known.
- Al Burt Award - for a body of outstanding journalism that keeps the issues affecting Florida's future in the public eye.

The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2013.

[\[Nomination Form\]](#)

U.S. Census Housing Indicators Mixed

The latest U.S. Census housing data released on November 20, 2012 shows housing construction activity in the South far outpacing the nation. [\[Report\]](#)

On a national scope:

Building Permits

Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in October were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 866,000. This is 2.7 percent below the revised September rate of 890,000, but is 29.8 percent above the October 2011 estimate of 667,000.

Hi-Rise

3rd Tuesday
Monthly
11 a.m.

Homes

2nd Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

4th Wednesday
Quarterly
4 p.m.

Local Government

1st Tuesday
Monthly
10:30 a.m.

**Membership and
Programs &
Promotions**

(Joint Meeting)
1st Wednesday
Monthly
3 p.m.

Single-family authorizations in October were at a rate of 562,000; this is 2.2 percent above the revised September figure of 550,000. Authorizations of units in buildings with five units or more were at a rate of 280,000 in October.

Housing Starts

Privately-owned housing starts in October were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 894,000. This is 3.6 percent above the revised September estimate of 863,000 and is 41.9 percent above the October 2011 rate of 630,000.

Single-family housing starts in October were at a rate of 594,000; this is 0.2 percent below the revised September figure of 595,000. The October rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 285,000.

Housing Completions

Privately-owned housing completions in October were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 772,000. This is 14.5 percent above the revised September estimate of 674,000 and is 33.6 percent above the October 2011 rate of 578,000.

Single-family housing completions in October were at a rate of 542,000; this is 3.4 percent above the revised September rate of 524,000. The October rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 226,000.

Sales of New Residential Units

Sales of new single-family houses in September 2012 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 389,000, according to estimates released jointly today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is 5.7 percent above the revised August rate of 368,000 and is 27.1 percent above the September 2011 estimate of 306,000.

The median sales price of new houses sold in September 2012 was \$242,400; the average sales price was \$292,400. The

seasonally adjusted estimate of new houses for sale at the end of September was 145,000. This represents a supply of 4.5 months at the current sales rate.