

April 27, 2012

Save the Date



Our annual GreenTrends Conference is moving to the Fall, so mark your calendars!

GreenTrends 2012
Sept 12-14, 2012
 PGA National Resort
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL

www.GreenTrends.org

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FGBC Project Spotlight: Florida Home Partnership Giving So Much to Those That Need It Most

Florida Home Partnership (FHP) has built over 550 homes in Riverview, Wimauma and Pasco County, providing the opportunity of homeownership to low and moderate income families and individuals who would otherwise not be able to afford a home of their own.

All new future homeowners are placed into work groups which mirror the "barn raisings" of the Quakers with neighbors helping neighbors to build. This "sweat equity" creates a strong sense of community even before owners are given their keys.



In Ruskin, FHP is currently building Bayou Pass Phase III, which will contain 165 homes. All of these homes will be built to the Florida Green Building Coalition "Florida Green" standard, as well as to Energy Star and Florida Water StarSM standards. The community features exceptional recreation amenities, including a pool, walking trail and children's playground. [\[More\]](#)

World Experts Say Core Elements of Design are Key to Lower Green Building Costs

Delegates at the WORLD ecoConstruct Summit in Abu Dhabi were told that implementing sustainable building practices does not have to be expensive, while adopting simple design principles is the key factor to keep costs down. Core elements of the design phase of construction projects are the key ingredients to reduce building costs, while also maximizing long-term sustainability and energy efficiency of the built environment, experts advised.

"It is a misunderstood notion that sustainable buildings are more expensive to develop," said Saeed Alabbar, Vice

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Certification News

"Florida Green" Certifications to Date:

Homes

679 Homes in 2012
4,808 total as of 4/25/12

Commercial Buildings

Registered: 15
Certified: 5

Hi-Rise

Registered: 3
Certified: 1

Land Development

Registered: 60

Chairman of the Emirates Green building Council, and a speaker at the WORLD ecoConstruct Summit. "While there are costs associated with introducing energy efficiency and sustainability elements, the critical factor here is the design considerations." [\[More\]](#)

Environmental Institute in Wakulla County Receives Governor's Approval

Florida's approved budget for 2012 - 2013 included a \$4.5 million investment for the construction of Tallahassee Community College's (TCC) Wakulla Environmental Institute in Wakulla County just south of Tallahassee. The Institute will highlight Wakulla's natural heritage and biodiversity to offer unique science and technology education opportunities and serve as an economic driver for the region. TCC will offer new environmentally focused degree and certificate programs through the Institute, including programs in environmental science technology, hospitality and tourism, aquaculture management and agribusiness.

Governor Approves Reclaimed Water Use Law

Once controversial, HB 639 promoting the use of treated wastewater was among four bills signed into law in April by Gov. Rick Scott. HB 639 prohibits water management districts from requiring a permit for the use of reclaimed water when other water withdrawals are not involved. Rep. Dana Young, R-Tampa and the bill's sponsor, said the law change was needed to provide certainty for local government wastewater utilities.

An average of 659 million gallons of treated wastewater, also called "reclaimed" water, was used daily in 2010 to water lawns and golf courses, irrigate crops or replenish groundwater aquifers, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Clean Energy Group Fights PSC on State Energy Goals

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) took its campaign for lower electricity bills and less air pollution to Florida's highest court this week. SACE is appealing a pair of Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) Orders that effectively slash the conservation goals for the state's two largest power companies: Florida Power and Light (FPL) and Progress Energy Florida (PEF).

"It's unfortunate that the PSC saw fit to deny customers more

Certified: 12

Local Government

Registered: 56
Certified: 36

Multi-Family

In 2012
26 Buildings
302 Units

Education Opportunities

Bulletin on new Florida Building Code regulations for flood-prone areas

[\[More\]](#)

May 9, 2012 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. EDT Webinar DEO Up-Close: Issues, Insights & Priorities

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

[\[Register\]](#)

June 20, 2012 FGBC Certifying Agent Annual Renewal Course

Sarasota, FL

[\[Register\]](#)

August 14-15, 2012 FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course

(To become a Certifying Agent)

Florida Solar Energy Center

1679 Clearlake Road
Cocoa, FL

[\[Register\]](#)

Calendar of Events

April 29 - May 1, 2012 NAHB Green Building Conference

Renaissance Nashville Hotel

Nashville, TN

[Register](#)

May 17-19, 2012 American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2012 National Convention and Design Exposition
Washington, DC

energy savings opportunities at a time when customers are looking for ways to use energy smarter and save money on their bills," said Dr. Stephen A. Smith, executive director of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. "Energy efficiency is the cheapest, cleanest resource that utilities can buy. It helps the customers of utilities balance their household budgets. Energy efficiency employs local businesses in skilled trades. Locking in place what are now among the weakest and most dated programs in the Southeast is a shameless failure of leadership by the Florida Public Service Commission." [\[More\]](#)

Philadelphia to Serve as National Model For Stormwater Management

The city of Philadelphia and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) have signed an agreement that represents a \$2 billion investment in Philadelphia green infrastructure. Over the next 25 years, the Green City, Clean Waters partnership agreement will transform many of Philadelphia's traditional hardened surfaces to green areas to better manage potentially harmful rainwater runoff pollution. This unique federal - city partnership is designed to ensure the success of Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters Plan and to present the plan as a national model for cities embracing green stormwater infrastructure. Green infrastructure investments make our communities cleaner, healthier, and more attractive places to live and work. [\[More\]](#) [\[Plan\]](#)

Sustainable Florida Reveals 'Best Practices' Nominees

The Sustainable Florida Best Practice Awards recognize businesses, organizations and individuals for their dynamic work in helping to create a sustainable Florida.

Nominees for 2012 include the following FGBC members:

- City of Boynton Beach
- City of Lake Worth
- City of Stuart
- City of Tallahassee (FGBC certified local government)
- Hillsborough County
- Leon County
- Martin County (FGBC certified local government)
- Drew Smith

In all, seven categories that include Government, Non-Profit, Large Business, Small Business, Partnership, Leadership, and Green Building will be recognized at a special awards event this summer. The awards program will be held in conjunction with a day-long training event - Working on the Green.

Good luck to each of our FGBC members. [\[More\]](#)

[Register](#)

**June 2-7, 2012
BOAF (Building
Officials-Florida)
2012 Conference &
Tradeshaw**

Walt Disney World Hilton
Lake Buena Vista, FL
[Register](#)

**Sept 12-14, 2012
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Palm Beach Gardens, FL
www.GreenTrends.org

Join Our List

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Articles of Interest

**AIA-COTE Picks Top 10
Environmental Projects**
[\[More\]](#)

**A Fuel Cell That Cleans
Water and Makes
Electricity-Simultaneously**
[\[More\]](#)

**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.

GreenTrends
4th Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m. (New Time)

Hi-Rise Residential

Tampa Area Construction Project Opportunity Announced

Core Construction is looking for all regional **Small Business, Small Disadvantaged, Woman-Owned, HUBZone, Veteran, or Service Disabled Veteran Owned** construction subcontractors and material suppliers for a new 5-story, 200,000 s.f. guest residential facility on McDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

A "**Subcontractor Project Opportunity Day**" is scheduled for:

May 8, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Doubletree Hilton Tampa Westshore Airport
4500 West Cypress Street
Tampa

Questions and registration should be directed to email:
sboutreach@waltoncore.com

DOE Announces Leadership in Housing Winners

Each year, ENERGY STAR New Homes presents Leadership in Housing Awards to outstanding partners who have made important contributions to energy-efficient construction and environmental protection by building or verifying an outstanding number of ENERGY STAR qualified homes, or by sponsoring a local program that supported these activities during the previous year.

Congratulations to the following FGBC members for being selected!

2012 Award Winners

Builders

Ashton Woods Homes - Florida	City
K. Hovnanian Homes - Tampa	Maitland
M/I Homes - Tampa	Tampa
Minto Communities, LLC	Tampa
Southern Crafted Homes	Pompano Beach
	Land O Lakes

Home Energy Raters

All Pro Rating Services	City
Calcs-Plus	Casselberry
	North Venice

3rd Tuesday-monthly
11 a.m.

Homes

2nd Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

Quarterly
(New schedule)

Local Government

1st Tuesday-monthly
10:30 a.m.

Membership Committee

3rd Thursday-monthly
4 p.m. (New Time)

Programs & Promotions

3rd Thursday-monthly
4 p.m. (New Time)

Cool Green Consulting
E S Green & Company, LLC

E3 Building Sciences

Gary Carmack

GreenCalcs for Sustainable Building

Infinite Energy Solutions

Jacksonville Building Science

SkyeTec

Two Trails, Inc.

Apollo Beach

Tallahassee

Bonita Springs

Orlando

Pensacola

Port Richey

Jacksonville

Jacksonville

Sarasota

Rating Providers

Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC)

Home Energy Services, Inc.

City

Cocoa

Jacksonville

Sponsoring Organizations

Progress Energy Florida

City

Lake Mary

Funding Opportunities

FPL Residential Solar Rebate Program Reopens May 3

FPL will reopen its solar rebate program on May 3, 2012. The rebate is \$2 per watt of the DC output of a PV system, up to \$20,000 and is available for existing homes only, not new construction. [\[More\]](#)

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

Housing Barometer Rising Say Leading Forecasters

According to Bowden's Market Barometer, the housing industry is rising from the grave, based on the following indicators:

Homebuilder stocks are at their highest level in two years with the S&P builder index rising 80% since October. Barclays Capital recently noted that the spring selling season appears to have arrived with enough strength to "kick-start a positive feedback loop in housing for the first time since 2005." Barclays forecasts 1 million housing starts by 2013 and a return to the historic norm of 1.7 million by 2015. Importantly, Barclays estimates that every 100,000 housing starts generate approximately 250,000 jobs and further opines that US residential housing will "transition from being a headwind to a tailwind for the economy by this time next year."

The results of a survey by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) of 38 economists and market analysts call for relatively broad improvements in real estate fundamentals over the next three years with housing starts nearly doubling from their 2011 levels and home prices rising 3.5% by 2014. The ULI report forecasts 500,000 starts in 2012, jumping to 660,000 in 2013 and 800,000 in 2014. In light of the most recent construction report, in which starts are estimated to be at an annual rate of 654,000, the ULI forecast appears conservative. The report

and details:

[Loan Programs](#)

[Geothermal](#)

[Solar](#)

[Wind & Water](#)

**DOE Funding
Announcements**

[\[More\]](#)

DOE Solar Funding
Due 5-29-12

[\[More\]](#)

**Solar Plug-and-Play
Funding Available**

[\[More\]](#)

also calls for the national unemployment rate to edge down to 7.5% by 2013 and 6.9% by 2014.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch recently revised its home price forecast, predicting cumulative growth of 42% in home prices by 2020, or 4% per year. The estimate is based, at least in part, on dropping inventory levels that stood at 6.4 months in February, down from 9.3 months in July 2011, representing a six-year low. Fitch Ratings (www.fitchratings.com) recently forecasted an increase in single-family housing starts of 10% in 2012, and a rise in new home sales of 8%.

The Southwest Florida: Toll Brothers is developing Bonita Lakes, a 268-unit project in Bonita Springs; Stock Development has had its first closings at Esperanza at Paseo in Ft. Myers; Pulte Homes is developing The Preserve at Corkscrew in Estero, and DR Horton and GL Homes are also developing new products throughout the market area.

Home prices in Southeast Florida gained further momentum in February, marking the third straight month of increases as the median single-family price rose 19% to \$175,000 in Miami-Dade and 8% in Broward County, to \$180,000. While we've heard a lot about Miami's condo market renaissance, which has driven prices up more than 40%, the market area's pending home sales recently spiked by nearly one-third boosted by a 49% increase in single-family transactions.