

December 30, 2015



New beginnings, fresh starts, and promises for a brighter future all come to mind as we ring in a New Year. There are the superficial, yet purposeful, promises we make to ourselves. We resolve to get in shape, lose weight, improve career paths, and the like. Then, there are the heartfelt promises we make to others, whether aloud or in our minds. We want to care more, express love more, reverse bad feelings in old relationships or seek out new loving relationships.

#### **My Special New Year's Wish to You Is:**

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

--Suzanne Cook  
FGBC Executive Director

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## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: La Joya Villages Earns Affordable Housing Award From Florida Redevelopment Agency



La Joya Villages is a public-private partnership that includes 55 new rental units priced for low to moderate income families and individuals. The project contains a small community garden, ample parking, a sound wall to buffer noise pollution, and green building techniques that were used throughout the construction process. In addition, a percentage of the units have been set aside specifically for Veterans.

The project was built using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act meant to clean up abandoned and foreclosed properties in the most economically distressed neighborhoods. In addition to providing quality housing and community meeting space, this development significantly increases the local tax-base and provides much needed revenue for the City's General fund.

La Joya Villages earned green certification under the Florida Green Building Coalition's Florida Green Home Designation Standard with a score of 145, earning it a silver-level rating. Kyle Abney of Abney & Abney Green Solutions in Palm City was the FGBC Certifying Agent that guided the La Joya Villages green team through the certification process. [[More](#)]

## Congress Extends 30% Tax Credit Through 2020 For Solar and Wind

On December 18, 2015, Congress extended the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Production Tax Credit (PTC) for five years.

The ITC for commercial installations had been set to decrease from 30% to 10% at the end of 2016 and the individual tax credit would have disappeared

[Google Launches Mortgage Comparison Tool with Zillow](#)

[The 15 Best Building-Failure Fixes of the Past Year](#)

[10 Top Green Home Building Ideas](#)

[A Weapon Against Climate Change May Be Right Under Our Feet](#)

[FGBC Welcomes New Members](#)

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### Articles of Interest

[Google Launches Mortgage Comparison Tool with Zillow](#)

[The 15 Best Building-Failure Fixes of the Past Year](#)

[10 Top Green Home Building Ideas](#)

[A Weapon Against Climate Change May Be Right Under Our Feet](#)

### Stay Connected



### FGBC Welcomes New Members

**Harry Smith**  
[Royal American](#)  
Panama City

**Andrew Floyd** (Rejoin)  
[TopBuild Home Services](#)  
Daytona Beach

**David Burch**  
[TopBuild Home Services](#)  
Daytona Beach

altogether. Now, the commercial ITC will continue at 30% for facilities commencing construction before January 1, 2020 and will decline to 26% in 2020, 22% in 2021, leveling off at 10% in 2022. The individual tax credit will remain at 30% until January 1, 2020, and decline at the same schedule as the Section 48 ITC. [\[More\]](#)

## Surgeon General's Call to Action Promotes Walkable Communities:

Step It Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities recognizes the importance of physical activity for people of all ages and abilities. It calls on Americans to be more physically active through walking and calls on the nation to better support walking and walkability. Improving walkability means that communities are created or enhanced to make it safe and easy to walk and that pedestrian activity is encouraged for all people.

The Call to Action includes five goals, with related strategies to support walking and walkability in the United States. These strategies will make it easier and safer for people to walk and to use a wheelchair, ride a bike, and be active in other ways.

- Goal 1 Make Walking a National Priority
- Goal 2 Design Communities that Make It Safe and Easy to Walk for People of All Ages and Abilities
- Goal 3 Promote Programs and Policies to Support Walking Where People Live, Learn, Work, and Play
- Goal 4 Provide Information to Encourage Walking and Improve Walkability
- Goal 5 Fill Surveillance, Research, and Evaluation Gaps Related to Walking and Walkability

Action by multiple sectors of society, such as transportation, land use, and community design; parks and recreational and fitness facilities; schools; and worksites, as well as by families and individuals, will be needed to achieve these goals.

One out of every two U.S. adults is living with a chronic disease, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. These diseases contribute to disability, premature death, and health care costs. Increasing

**Larry Baum**  
[Stellar Homes Group](#)  
Fort Lauderdale

**Christopher Delgado**  
DAXIEM, LLC  
Winter Park

**Alexis Ryan**  
[All Elements Mechanical](#)  
Orlando

**Suzanne Graham** (Rejoin)  
[Massey Services, Inc](#)  
Orlando

**Alan Penchansky**  
Pen Group Communications  
Miami

**Brad Hamilton**  
[WCI Communities](#)  
Bradenton

**Richard Bavec**  
[Tolaris Homes](#)  
Sanford

**Samuel Shapiro**  
Samuel Shapiro R.A.  
Davie

**Mike Lewis**  
[WCI Communities](#)  
Bradenton

**Brian Pak**  
[WCI Communities](#)  
Bradenton

**Sally Walters**  
Gemini Development, LLC  
St. Augustine

### Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

[GreenTrends](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Education Opportunities

**February 2-3, 2016**  
**Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup>**  
**Accredited**  
**Professional Training**  
**and Exam**  
Gainesville, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

[Energy Star Webinars](#)

[Building America Webinars](#)

people's physical activity levels will significantly reduce their risk of chronic diseases and related risk factors. Because physical activity has numerous other health benefits-such as supporting positive mental health and healthy aging-it is one of the most important actions people can take to improve their overall health. [\[More\]](#)

## More Floridians Plugging Electric Cars: Advocates Want State to Facilitate Use

In his 2011 State of the Union address, President Barack Obama called for 1 million plug-in cars to be on U.S. roads by 2015. California and seven other states say they will ban new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2050.

There are only about 330,000 electric vehicles on the road nationwide, with about 150,000 of them in California. Florida had just over 10,000 as of 2014, according to the Florida Solar Energy Center at the University of Central Florida.

To increase that number, at least in Florida, the local advocates are focusing on three areas:

1. A state tax credit. The federal government already provides up to \$7,500 in tax relief for buying a plug-in car, and a state credit could provide further incentive to buy what now are significantly more expensive cars. The five-passenger 2016 Chevy Volt goes for about \$35,000.
2. Sen. Darren Soto, a Democrat from Orlando, has introduced Senate Bill 366 for the 2016 legislative session. It would make hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius, in which an electric motor supplements the gasoline engine, exempt from the state sales tax.
3. Ensuring that residents of apartments or condominiums are allowed to install charging stations. In other words, the advocates don't like the status quo, where landlords or condo boards can prevent installation.

At least 20 states have considered legislation to promote purchase and use of hybrids and plug-in cars. [\[More\]](#)

## Calendar of Events

**January 27-29, 2016  
Federal Alliance for Safe  
Homes (FLASH)  
Annual Conference**  
Orlando, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**February 2-3, 2016  
Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup>  
Accredited  
Professional Training  
and Exam**  
Gainesville, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**February 8-10, 2016  
FHBA Spring Legislative  
Conference**  
Tallahassee, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**February 9-11, 2016  
MiaGreen Expo &  
Conference**  
Miami, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

**February 27, 2016  
Green Planet Festival**  
Ft Lauderdale, FL  
[\[More\]](#)

## Certification News

**Commercial**  
Registered: 39  
Certified: 13

**High Rise**  
Registered: 45  
Certified: 12

**Homes**  
Registered: 11,605  
Certified: 11,428

Single-Family: 8,062  
Multi-Family: 3,366

**Land Developments**  
Registered: 62  
Certified: 13

**Local Government**  
Registered: 79  
Certified: 58

## Recent Certifications

**Bay House**  
Location: Miami  
Type: High-Rise

## Defining Zero Energy Buildings (ZEBs): It's Not as Simple as We Thought

Most building managers are familiar with site energy, the amount of energy consumed by a building as measured by utility meters. Site energy consumption can be useful for understanding the performance of the building and the building systems, but it does not tell the whole story of impacts from resource consumption and emissions associated with the energy use. That's where source energy comes into the scenario.

When energy is consumed on-site, the conversion to source energy must account for the energy consumed in the extraction, processing and transport of primary fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas; energy losses in thermal combustion in power generation plants; and energy losses in transmission and distribution to the building site.

In practice, actual projects seeking to verify zero energy should work to ensure no harm is done in the process of achieving zero energy performance across other, non-energy-related considerations, such as water protection, optimized comfort for low-load buildings, and comprehensive indoor air quality. While these considerations don't affect the definition of zero energy, it is important that in practice a design team ensures that other important building considerations and values are not sacrificed in pursuit of zero energy. [[Read the full DOE Report](#)]

## Duke Energy Deadline Approaches For Home Advantage Program Rebates

Duke Energy Florida will continue accepting and processing rebates for new homes under the existing Home Advantage program for qualifying measures that have either a C/O or a permanent meter set prior to end of business day December 31, 2015. Builders will have 6 months from the meter set date (or C.O. in the case of TUG meters) to submit all completed incentive paperwork under the present guidelines to receive the incentive amount. [[Download Rebate Form](#)]

Effective January 1, 2016, Duke Energy Florida's Home Advantage Program will become the [Home Energy Improvement Program](#) - Energy Star Incentive

Certified: 12/8/15  
Score: 109  
Level: Certified

**Lexington Court**  
Location: Orlando  
Type: High-Rise  
Certified: 11/2/15  
Score: 152  
Level: Silver

### Recent Registrations:

**Park Grove - Bank**  
Location: Miami  
Type: Commercial  
Size: 127,407 S.F.

**Park Grove - Tower 1**  
Location: Miami  
Type: High-Rise  
Size: 419,722 S.F.

**Park Grove - Tower 2 & 3**  
Location: Miami  
Type: High-Rise  
Size: 916,163 S.F.

## FGBC Committee Meetings

**Board of Directors**  
2nd Wednesday  
Monthly  
3 p.m.

**Commercial**  
1st Tuesday  
Monthly  
2 p.m.

**Education**  
1st Thursday  
Monthly  
3 p.m.

**High-Rise**  
3rd Tuesday  
Monthly  
11 a.m.

**Homes**  
2nd Tuesday  
Monthly  
2 p.m.

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

**Local Government**  
3rd Wednesday  
Monthly

for New Homes. The qualifying new home must be a single family detached home, qualify Energy Star 3.1 (or current version) certified and meet all Duke Energy Florida's prescriptive requirements as outlined in the attached 2016 Incentive Form. The Duke Energy Florida website will provide additional changes to the current incentive program in the near future.

## Florida Ranked as 2<sup>nd</sup> Fastest Growing State Water Supplies & Land Prices Are Concerns

With a population of 20 million, Florida is now ranked as the nation's second-fastest growing state, right behind Texas. By 2030, the state's population is predicted to rise to 26 million, according to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida. Many of the new residents are expected to be baby boomers entering retirement, data shows.

Experts are predicting an increased demand for both land and water. The demand for water could surpass the state's supply over the next decades. Florida will face a water shortfall of 1 billion gallons a day by 2030, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

While Tampa Bay is not currently at risk, the Orlando area is where experts expect the water shortage to be the biggest concern. Politicians are pushing water supply management plans and roadway expansions, to accommodate growing traffic congestion, as some of their top priorities for the state moving forward. [\[More\]](#)

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10:30 a.m.

**Programs & Promotions**  
3rd Thursday  
Monthly  
2 p.m.

### Funding Opportunities

[St. Johns River  
WMD Water Programs](#)

[South Florida WMD  
Water Programs](#)

[Southwest Florida WMD  
Water Programs](#)

**FHFC Multifamily Energy  
Retrofit Program (MERP)**  
[\[More\]](#)

### Job Opportunities

[APA Florida Job Board](#)

[Green Dream Jobs](#)

[Florida Facility Managers  
Assn Job Board](#)

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[\[More\]](#)

### **The Villages - Nation's Fastest-Growing Area**

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau's](#) most recent population estimates, The Villages, located to the west of the Orlando metro area, grew by 5.4 percent between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014, to reach a population of about 114,000.

Florida contained seven of the nation's top 50 numerically gaining metro areas between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014, and these areas accounted for more than three-quarters of the state's population gain over the period:

- Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach (with a one-year gain of about 66,000).
- Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford (about 50,000).
- Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (about 41,000).
- Jacksonville (about 23,000).
- Cape Coral-Fort Myers (about 18,000).
- North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton (about 16,000).
- Lakeland-Winter Haven (about 11,000).

[\[More\]](#)

### **2015 IRC Lateral Bracing Requirements Explained in New APA Guidebook**

A new guidebook, co-published by the International Code Council (ICC) and APA - The Engineered Wood Association, provides an explanation of the lateral bracing provisions of the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC). "[A Guide to the 2015 IRC Wood Wall Bracing Provisions](#)", the fourth edition in the series, details the correct application of the code-

bracing requirements, explores the history and theory behind wall bracing, and provides real-world bracing examples.

The type and amount of bracing required for a given structure depends on many factors, including location and size of the structure, and the location of bracing segments within the structure. Bracing must be applied correctly and consistently to sufficiently protect the building from lateral loads, according to ICC and APA. "The bracing provisions in the IRC are complex, given the great number of aesthetic, cultural, economic and energy-related variables that factor in," said BJ Yeh, APA Technical Services Director. "This guide makes these provisions easy to understand and apply."

## BuildingGreen Announces Top-10 Products for 2015

BuildingGreen, publisher of *Environmental Building News*, has announced the winners of its annual Top-10 Green Building Products awards. The 13th annual awards recognize green building products that make fundamental transformations to "business as usual" in the design and construction industry.

This year's picks include products that have eliminated halogenated flame retardants, a longstanding health and environmental issue, along with a highly effective air- and weather-barrier system, chairs made from a new biobased plastic, and high-efficiency chillers using near-frictionless compressor rotors. Winners are:

- Johns Manville [ENRGY 3.E Halogen-Free Polyiso Insulation](#) - ENRGY 3.E is inherently fire-resistant and meets all current fire tests and codes without added halogenated flame retardants.
- [Cascadia Clip Thermal Spacers](#) - is a fiberglass spacer designed for installing cladding over insulation, reducing the thermal bridging through the insulation significantly when compared with conventional attachment methods.
- [Marvin Windows with U.S. Passive House Certification](#) - Marvin is the first major U.S. window manufacturer to offer a Passive House Institute U.S. (PHIUS)-certified window.

Marvin's PHIUS windows have whole-window U-values as low as 0.15, yet have similar thickness to their standard offerings to simplify installation.

- [USAI Lighting Color Select Tunable Lighting](#) - USAI's Color Select technology blends the efficacy of LEDs with the ability to provide occupants full control over the color and intensity of their indoor lighting.
- [FocalPoint Bioretention System](#) - Untreated rainwater leaving a developed site is effectively a chemical spill-but densely developed urban areas don't typically have space for classic low-impact development (LID) stormwater filtration strategies like bioswales. FocalPoint is a high-flow-rate biofiltration system designed to provide the performance of natural stormwater filtration on a very small footprint.
- [Multistack Magnetic Levitation Chillers](#) with Danfoss Compressors - Multistack MagLev centrifugal chillers provide cooling for offices, schools, and other large commercial buildings using Danfoss Turbocor compressors that have shafts supported by magnetic levitation. With almost no friction, variable-frequency drives, and the company's FlexSys controllers, these chillers work well at partial loads, are energy efficient, and eliminate the need for mechanical seals, gears, pumps, and many other conventional components.
- [Fluid-Applied Cat 5 Air Barrier System from Prosoco](#) - Liquid-applied air barriers have emerged as a high-performance alternative to sheet goods, and Prosoco's Cat 5 system represents one of the best in the class for a variety of reasons. The parts of the system (air barrier, flashing, and two filler products) are all based on the same high-performance "hybrid" polymer chemistry, which has no solvents or isocyanates, or phthalate plasticizers.
- [Clean Energy Collective](#) - develops community-shared PV facilities across the U.S. and engages with local utilities so that people with meters on those utilities can purchase and own PV panels within a shared array. Ideal for renters, shaded properties or homeowners who can't afford an entire solar system.
- [Organic Furnishings from Ekla Home](#) - offers organic sofas and chairs with cushions made from natural latex, which requires no chemical flame retardants
- [KI Chair with AirCarbon Plastic](#) - The raw

materials used to make AirCarbon are taken from agriculturally sourced methane rather than petroleum, sequestering the carbon from this powerful greenhouse gas and making the chair carbon-negative

[\[More\]](#)

## Habitat for Humanity So. Sarasota County Receives Prestigious DOE Housing Award



*Sam Rashkin (l) presents the DOE Housing Innovation Award to Michael Sollitto, Director of Construction for Habitat for Humanity of South Sarasota County.*

The Energy Department presented Housing Innovation Awards to 24 industry leaders from across the nation during the Energy and Environmental Building Alliance's Excellence in Building Conference in Denver, CO. These winners are "leading the movement to zero energy ready homes providing better places for Americans to live, stronger communities, and a more economically and environmentally resilient nation," said Sam Rashkin, Chief Architect at the U.S. Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office.

Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County was named a winner in the Affordable Housing category. The Laurel Gardens community of six Zero Energy Ready Homes in Nokomis is the first of its kind in Sarasota County. The homes in Laurel Gardens were green certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) and the home at 790 Dedication Court received a 2015 Green Achievement award from FGBC for being the highest scoring certified home in 2014 out of 2,378 total homes certified that year. Take a virtual tour of this home by visiting the DOE [Tour of Zero webpage](#).

"Housing Innovation Award winners such as Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County are leading a major housing industry transformation to zero energy ready homes. This level of performance is the home of the future because it improves the way Americans live by substantially reducing or eliminating utility bills, ensuring engineered comfort way beyond traditional homes, protecting health with a comprehensive package of indoor air quality measures, and helping maximize the largest investment of a lifetime," continued Rashkin.

## National Zero Waste Business Conference Set for June 1-4, 2016 in Austin, TX

Hoping to tune in and learn what's new with Zero Waste for your business? Join the U.S. Zero Waste Business Council ([www.uszwbc.org](http://www.uszwbc.org)) and industry leaders from across the globe in Austin, Texas June 1-4, 2016 for the 5th annual National Zero Waste Business Conference "Tuning in to Zero Waste."

The event is hosted by USZWBC in partnership with Austin Resource Recovery as a venue for professionals from all sectors (private, public, nonprofit, academia) to expand their Zero Waste knowledge. The event will provide educational resources, networking opportunities, and professional training for businesses to begin (or fine tune) their efforts to pursue Zero Waste. It will also provide sessions lead by experts on Zero Waste related topics such as operations, economics, policies and more.



Each year, the event grows larger as the value of attending this conference is shared. Stay tuned to the "zero waste station" via [www.uszwbc.org](http://www.uszwbc.org) for more information including registration, sponsorship opportunities, preliminary program and much more. The first early bird rates end January 15th, register today!!!

## Job Opportunities: Southface Seeks Director of Policy

Southface is seeking a full-time Director of Policy to lead our work in Georgia and the Southeast to support

public policies that advance sustainable development and clean energy technologies - including energy efficiency, solar and wind energy.

The ideal candidate will have a proven ability to foster coordination and cooperation among diverse - and even competing - groups. He or she will be committed to getting results in a fast-paced environment and able to manage a challenging diversity of tasks.

This position is an opportunity to engage with policy makers, NGOs, industry executives and other constituencies and to bring about policy changes that will transform the market for clean energy and sustainable development. [\[More\]](#)

Other positions available are:

- Commercial Sustainability Services Project Engineer
- Commercial Sustainability Services Research Engineer
- Residential Sustainability Services Director
- Residential Sustainability Services Associate

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Fine Home Inspections, Inc.



Jamie Milholland

As part of our commitment to supporting sustainable development in Florida and elsewhere, Fine Home Inspections, Inc. is honored to be a part of the Florida Green Building Coalition. Every opportunity we get, we share new information with home owners regarding sustainable building or sustainable retrofiting, providing a much needed information hub for home related resources. Our aim is to raise client awareness and recommend the most energy efficient and environmentally friendly products. We look forward to working with area builders in the FGBC certification process.

We are especially attuned to older clients and clients with special needs, providing information and ideas for home design and redesign for safely aging in place and meeting specific disability needs. Our philosophy is simple: to go above and beyond for clients, and to be there when they need us. We are customer service oriented and focus on the individual needs of each client. [\[More\]](#)