

February 9, 2015

How Much Does It Cost to Build Green? Significantly Less for the Experienced

According to the McGraw-Hill 2014 *Smart Market Report*, the incremental cost increase to build green reported by builders of new homes was 8% on average and by remodelers was 9% on average. Multifamily builders and remodelers, included for the first time in the study, reported roughly the same range - 9%. But the study also found that for builders with more than 30% green projects, the average cost to incorporate green dropped to 5.7%, significantly less than reported by those doing fewer green projects. This reinforces that as a firm becomes experienced with green, their costs go down.

But how much more will customers pay for green?

Of the single-family, new construction builders surveyed, 73% report that customers will pay more for a green home, and on average that premium is between 5% to 10%.

What triggers rise above the others in their ability to increase green building activity?

Three factors rise above the rest in their ability to drive green building activity in all three segments (single-family, multifamily and remodeling): Energy cost increases, code and regulation changes, and green product availability/affordability. In the single-family segment perceived higher quality and customer demand are the driving factors. [[Read the full report](#)]

Insurance Companies Offer Discounts For Smart-Home Technologies

Many early adopters of smart-home gadgets were in it to save money on heating and electricity bills, but now there's a new bonus to smartening up your home: insurance breaks. For the builder or seller, this could be another marketing advantage.

In 2013, State Farm paired up with ADT and Lowe's. First, State Farm customers could get discounts on connected home-monitoring equipment from those

In This Issue

[How Much Does It Cost to Build Green? Significantly Less for the Experienced](#)

[Insurance Companies Offer Discounts for Smart-Home Technologies](#)

[Window Coverings Certification Standard Being Developed in Partnership with DOE](#)

[Lstiburek Webinar to Discuss Latest Advances In Unvented Roof Systems, Advanced Framing](#)

[Florida Water Star Certification Required in Toho Water District](#)

[FPL to Double Solar Capacity By 2016](#)

[Multifamily PACE Program Receives Support](#)

[Oil Drilling Banned on Florida's Atlantic Coast](#)

[APA Tutorial on IRC-Compliant Wall Bracing](#)

[NREL Releases Renewable Energy Data Book](#)

[Job Opening: Sarasota County Sustainability Coordinator](#)

[Winning Trends from the "Best in America" Awards](#)

[Florida's Water Worries Prompt Look at Recycling](#)

[Tax Watch Analyzes Gov. Scott's Budget](#)

[Education Opportunities](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Certification News](#)

[Recent Certifications](#)

[FGBC Committee Meetings](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

Quick Links

[Join FGBC](#)

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brands, including smoke detectors and thermostats, which in turn could lead to 10 to 15 percent reduction on their home or renter's insurance. Right now, State Farm is one of the few insurance companies offering such a discount, but as the smart device market grows - mainstream adoption is expected by 2019 - the practice could become more widespread.

Smart thermostats and security systems are expected to be among the most common connected home devices in the next five years; people are generally concerned with saving on their heating and cooling bills and keeping their homes safe. But something like Nest - coupled with Dropcam, August smart locks, and other Works With Nest devices - is exactly what insurance companies like to see in their customers' homes.

A smart thermostat can help prevent pipes from freezing, while products like Utilitech's smart-leak detector can shut off the water if it detects moisture. It makes sense that insurance companies would be big fans of technology that helps homeowners prevent and minimize damage. [\[More\]](#)

Window Coverings Certification Standard Being Developed in Partnership with DOE

In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Window Covering Manufacturers Association (WCMA) has launched the **Attachments Energy Ratings Council (AERC)**. The AERC will design and administer a new energy rating and certification program for the fenestration attachment products.

Fenestration attachments are a cost-effective means of reducing energy use in both the residential and commercial buildings and, due to their low cost and the rapid turnover of the installed base, have the potential to save approximately 800 tBTU by 2030 according to DOE analysis.

AERC will gather market and technical data that will be used to develop credible rating, certification, labeling, and performance verification procedures that will be adopted by the window attachments industry. This information will help consumers understand how well different window attachment products conserve energy.

During the next four years, the AERC will:

- Prioritize which product types and performance indices it will produce. As the program grows, AERC will include more product types and indices
- Characterize the key material properties of

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Articles of Interest

[Winning Trends from the "Best in America" Awards](#)

[Florida's Water Worries Prompt Look at Recycling](#)

[Tax Watch Analyzes Gov. Scott's Budget](#)

Education Opportunities

February 19, 2015
Florida Water Star Certifier Annual Update Training
Maitland Service Center
Maitland, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

February 26, 2015
Florida Water Star Certifier Annual Update Training
Tampa Service Center
Tampa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

March 4, 2015
Florida Water Star Certifier Annual Update Training
Fort Lauderdale, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

March 26, 2015
FGBC Certifying Agent Annual Verification Course
Tallahassee, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

April 14-15, 2015
FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course
Cocoa, FL
[\[Register\]](#)

[Building America Webinars](#)

Calendar of Events

February 21-22, 2015
MiaGreen Expo & Conference
Miami Airport Convention Center
Miami, FL
[\[More\]](#)

March 8-10, 2015
Southeast Recycling Trade Show (SERC 2015)
Hilton San Destin Golf Resort & Spa
Destin, FL
[\[More\]](#)

March 11-12,

- window attachment products (i.e. transmittance, reflectance, and emissivity)
- Conduct product performance simulations, which will cost-effectively increase the number of types of products that can be rated as well as the number of technically valid procedures used to rate them. [\[More\]](#)

Lstiburek Webinar to Discuss Latest Advances In Unvented Roof Systems, Advanced Framing

Don't miss the **Joe Lstiburek** and Vladimir Kochkin webinar " **High-Performance Enclosure Strategies**, Part I: Unvented Roof Systems and Innovative Advanced Framing Strategies" set for February 12th at 3 p.m. Specific topics for this webinar include:

- Joe Lstiburek, Building Science Corporation, presenting Advances in Unvented Roof Technology. It has become clear that unvented roofs must be conditioned in most climates or some other means of moisture removal is necessary for the attic space. This presentation will discuss several of these approaches, including the use of diffusion venting and dehumidification. These approaches will allow the use of cellulose and fiberglass insulation systems rather than the current approaches that rely on rigid insulation or spray polyurethane foams.
- Vladimir Kochkin, Home Innovation Research Labs, presenting Builder's Guide to High Performance Walls in Climate Zone 3-5. Strategies to design and build high performance walls can vary significantly by climate zone, and this discussion will focus on approaches for climate zones 3-5 that increase energy performance and reduce moisture issues in walls. The presentation is based on the Builder's Guide to High Performance Walls, which will be published in 2015.

[Reserve your seat now.](#)

Florida Water Star Certification Required in Toho Water District

Toho Water Authority, the largest provider of water, wastewater and reclaimed water in Osceola County, passed a resolution requiring that all new subdivisions be built to meet **Florida Water Star**^(sm) (FWS) criteria.

Toho Water Authority staff members conduct the FWS inspections and submit reports to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for

2015 GreenPrints Atlanta, GA
[\[More\]](#)

March 16-18, 2015
FHBA Spring Legislative Conference
Tallahassee, FL
[\[More\]](#)

April 9-10, 2015
Native Plant Show
Osceola Heritage Park
Kissimmee, FL
[\[More\]](#)

May 27-30, 2015
FL City & County Mgmt Assn (FCCMA)
Loews Royal Pacific
Orlando, FL
[\[More\]](#)

June 2-3, 2015
The Water Expo
Miami Airport Convention Center
Miami, FL
[\[More\]](#)

Certification News

Commercial
Registered: 32
Certified: 11

High Rise
Registered: 34
Certified: 7

Homes
Registered: 9,703
Certified: 9,162

Single-Family: 7,329
Multi-Family: 1,833

Land Developments
Registered: 62
Certified: 13

Local Government
Registered: 74
Certified: 55

Recent Certifications

City of Coconut Creek
Location: Coconut Creek
Type: Local Government
Certified: 1-16-15
Score: 53
Level: Gold

Evernia Place
Location: West Palm Beach
Type: High-Rise
Certified: 12/31/14
Score: 65
Level: N/A

Recent Registrations:

approval.

Builders receive a connection fee rebate from the Toho Water Authority to assist with added expenses. To date, more than 600 homes have been certified, with Lennar and Beazer Homes being the most active builders. [[More about Florida Water Star Certification](#)]

FPL to Double Solar Capacity By 2016

Florida's largest investor owned utility announced plans to build three new solar farms that would nearly double the state's solar capacity.

In its announcement, Florida Power & Light said it had found a "cost-effective" way to expand solar power in Florida and proposed to install the systems at three sites in its service area. The utility proposes to add 225 megawatts of solar to the state's current 229 megawatts by the end of next year in Manatee, DeSoto and Charlotte counties.

FPL is still refining the details of the project so the utility did not provide cost estimates. But the company said there would be no significant impact on customer rates.

A nationwide solar boom has in part been fueled by a 30 percent federal tax credit that will decrease to 10 percent at the end of 2016.

Gulf Power plans to add 120 megawatts of solar power at military bases on the Florida Panhandle: Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Holley Field in Navarre, and Saufley Field in Pensacola. [[More](#)]

Multifamily PACE Program Receives Support From HUD & State of Calif. Partnership

In California at the end of January, HUD Secretary Julian Castro and California Governor Jerry Brown announced a partnership between HUD and California to expand financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy in multifamily housing. This partnership will include work on a PACE pilot for multifamily housing and HUD guidance on PACE and assisted housing and a pilot program for on-bill repayment for multifamily housing.

PACE financing for multifamily housing

Governor Brown is establishing a California Multifamily PACE pilot in partnership with the MacArthur foundation. Secretary Castro has issued guidance to clarify when HUD can approve PACE financing on HUD-assisted and insured housing in

City of New Port Richey

Location: New Port Richey
Type: Local Government
Size: 15,087

One Thousand Museum

Location: Miami
Type: High-Rise
Size: 900,000 s.f.

Hyde Midtown

Location: Miami
Type: High-Rise
Size: 500,307 s.f.

Casa Palma

Location Coconut Creek
Type: Multi-Family
Size: 350 Units, 14 Bldgs

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 & Affordable Housing

(Joint Meeting)
2nd Tuesday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Land Development

4th Wednesday
Bi-monthly
2 p.m.

Local Government

3rd Wednesday
Monthly
10:30 a.m.

Membership and Programs & Promotions

(Joint Meeting)
3rd Thursday
Monthly
2 p.m.

Funding Opportunities

[St. Johns River WMDWater Programs](#)

California.

On bill repayment

HUD and the state of California will create a Master-Metered Multifamily Finance Pilot project. This pilot will increase access to capital for energy efficiency improvements by allowing them to be repaid through a master-meter utility bill. This \$3million program will provide technical assistance and credit support. [\[More\]](#)

Oil Drilling Banned on Florida's Atlantic Coast

Florida's east coast won't see oil rigs anytime soon. The Obama administration has decided to **not allow any oil drilling off Florida's coast for at least the next 7 years**. But there is a catch. Survey companies will still be allowed to explore for oil off Florida's east coast. They just won't be able to do anything about it, if they find oil.

While no drilling will be allowed, **companies can still survey the ocean floor** off Florida's coast. It's called seismic air gun testing and the government's own study concludes it could harm 138,000 marine animals by using loud blasts of compressed air to detect oil and gas deposits. But a government spokesperson said oil companies may be less inclined to explore for oil since they won't be able to drill. [\[More\]](#)

APA Tutorial on IRC-Compliant Wall Bracing

APA - The Engineered Wood Association has produced a new online video designed to educate builders and designers about the **wall bracing requirements** of the **International Residential Code** (IRC).

Case studies were taken from homes in Illinois where a devastating string of 73 tornadoes destroyed 1,000 homes. The [video](#) and [report](#) explain key principles to creating strong, resilient, IRC-compliant walls. [\[More\]](#)

NREL Releases Renewable Energy Data Book

The Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) recently released the "2013 Renewable Energy Data Book," which showcases U.S. and global energy statistics. The Data Book, published annually on behalf of the Energy Department, includes renewable electricity generation, renewable energy development, clean energy investments, and technology-specific data and trends. **Key findings** about 2013 include:

[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](#)

[City of Sunrise Internship opportunity](#)

FGBC Welcomes
New Members

Anne Graffy (Rejoin)
[Keller Williams](#)
New Port Richey

Rosie Branciforte
[Everglades University](#)
Maitland

Jovita Woodrich
[GIBB Chipley Village, Inc](#)
Tallahassee

Edmundo Largaespada
[Steven Feller P.E., PL](#)
Fort Lauderdale

- **Solar electricity was the fastest growing electricity** generation technology, with cumulative installed capacity increasing by nearly 66% from the previous year.
- **Renewable electricity accounted for more than 61%** of all new electricity capacity installations in the United States
- **Electricity produced by renewable sources**, including hydropower and biopower, grew to nearly 15% of total installed capacity and **13% of total electricity generation** in the United States [[2013 Data Book](#)]

Job Opening: Sarasota County Sustainability Coordinator

The position is responsible for community education and engagement on sustainability. Successful candidates will have both subject matter expertise in sustainability (energy, green building, environmental procurement, alternative transportation, etc.) and demonstrated skills and passion for education and engagement of the community. Go to <http://www.scgov.net> and click on Careers, then the search tab.