



GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

April 28, 2008

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Articles of Interest

Countrywide Offers EEMs
Discounted Rates for Buyers of Green and Energy Efficient Homes [\[read\]](#)

Getting Green By Design

FGBC Seek Board Nominations

Nominations Due by May 30, 2008

Dear FGBC Members:

It is time for the annual elections of the Florida Green Building Coalition Board of Directors. If you are a current member or would like to nominate a current member to serve on the FGBC Board, please submit your nomination by May 30, 2008.

If you are nominating someone other than yourself, you must obtain the nominee's permission.

All nomination requests must include the person's name, company and city. Please send all nominations to: cooks@nettally.com and they will be forwarded to the FGBC Nominating Committee.

Board members serve for three years and must serve within the affiliation category where they derive the majority of their income, except for those who run under the "At-Large" category.

Board members are eligible to serve a second three-year term if re-elected. A [current list of board members](#) and categories of affiliations is located on the FGBC website. FGBC seeks nominees in each category.

Membership will elect one candidate in each category. Ballots will be distributed in early June. The Board members will begin their term at the annual meeting held during FGBC GreenTrends Conference in July.

FGBC Unveils New Logo at Mid-Year Conference

A green Florida for a blue planet

Last week during FGBC's Mid-Year conference in Palm Harbor, President Mike Houston unveiled the Coalition's new "a green Florida for a blue planet" logo that signifies FGBC's commitment to sustainability.



Jensen Beach Architect Shows It's Not Difficult. [\[read\]](#)

Looking Back and Moving Forward

Architectural Record Post-occupancy evaluations offer a systematic process for assessing completed projects, pointing the way to better-performing buildings. [\[read\]](#)

Tallahassee's largest Solar System Woes

Devoe Moore comments on how net-metering isn't working [\[read\]](#)

Global Survey Shows "Green" Construction Costs Dramatically Lower Than Believed.

Survey finds green costs overestimated by 300% and a need to foster zero net energy construction. [\[read\]](#)

Solving Climate Change Saves Billions

A study released by *Architecture 2030* concludes that, of the energy and climate change solutions proposed today, the one that costs the least and offers the greatest benefits to both the planet and the economy, is energy efficiency in buildings. [\[read\]](#)

Builders Turn Over A New Leaf

[\[read\]](#)

Leaders of Six Space Coast Cities Push Green Initiatives

[\[read\]](#)

Solar Power Industry Tests New Storage Technologies [\[read\]](#)

REI explores the environmental cost of eco-tourism [\[read\]](#)

How much will it cost to fix the climate? The numbers vary. *Christian Science Monitor* [\[read\]](#)

Members can expect access to the new logo within several weeks via an online ftp website. Instructions for downloading the images will be announced soon.

In other Coalition business, the Green Commercial Buildings Committee voted to completely revise those standards, and the Standards Committee established a "Green Business" sub-committee that will develop best practices for making workspaces green. Other committee reports will be available on the FGBC website

Key Issues in Legislature Week Ending 4-25-08

Cliffhangers range from abortion to transportation

Key issues awaiting action as the Legislature heads into its final week include ENERGY. The proposed legislation would require polluters to pay for carbon emissions they produce, lower emissions allowed for automobiles, make it easier to build nuclear power plants, strengthen green building codes and energy-efficiency standards for appliances. [\[more\]](#)

West Florida Parade Home Demos Eco-Friendly

FGBC Certified Home Educates Consumers

To mark the Parade of Homes' 50th anniversary, the 600-member Home Builders Association of West Florida is showcasing an innovative, eco-friendly home.

"The American Dream Home is a 'green' dream home," said West Calhoun of West Calhoun Construction, builder of the custom home for the association. "Our firm knew that the home needed to showcase new and innovative ideas, and there's no better way to accomplish that than to build a home that is certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition." [\[more\]](#)

Tampa Appoints Tom Snelling As Green Officer

City strives to be more environmental savvy

For the first time, Tampa will have a "green officer," someone responsible for making sure Tampa makes strides in becoming a more environmentally savvy city.

Mayor Pam Iorio on Monday appointed Thom Snelling to the position.

The role will be in addition to his existing duties as the city's deputy director for growth management and development services. One of his main roles will be to help Tampa become a Certified Florida Green Local Government by October 2010.

[\[more\]](#)

Calendar of Events

May 11-13, 2008
[NAHB Green Building Conference](#)
 Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

New Orleans, LA

July 30-Aug 2, 2008

[FGBC GreenTrends](#)

[Conference](#)

Orange County Convention

Ctr

Orlando, FL

August 15, 2008

[Florida League of Cities Expo](#)

Tampa Convention Center

Tampa, FL

November 19-21, 2008

[USGBC GreenBuild](#)

[Conference](#)

Boston Convention Center

Boston, MA

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JEA Issues Renewable Energy RFP

Deadline for submission is May 16, 2008

The Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) has issued an [RFP](#) seeking solar and wind resources of greater than 1 MW.

Contact: Jay Worley, (904) 665-8729

A complete list of active RFPs can found on [EERE](#).

Orlando Receives Solar Initiative Funding

'Solar America Cities' program advances solar use

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it will make available up to \$2.4 million to 12 U.S. cities to advance solar energy. Through the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Cities partnership, a select group of U.S. cities, one of which is Orlando, is working to accelerate the adoption of solar energy technologies for a cleaner, more secure energy future. These partners have made a commitment to power their municipalities with clean, safe, reliable energy-solar energy.

Solar America Cities are chosen for their commitment and comprehensive approach to overcoming barriers to and developing infrastructure that supports increased deployment of solar technologies in their municipalities. The cities' solar projects further the Solar America Initiative (SAI), which aims to make solar electricity from photovoltaics cost-competitive with conventional forms of electricity from the utility grid by 2015.

Cities designated as 2008 Solar America Cities will each receive up to \$200,000 from DOE to help support their solar efforts. [\[more\]](#)

Florida's Green Economy Takes Giant Strides

North Florida Gets Nation's Largest Bio-Mass Plant

Since last year's Climate Change Summit, Florida's "green" economy has grown significantly. Progress Energy along with Biomass Gas & Electric of Atlanta recently announced a partnership to build in North Florida the largest waste-wood biomass plant in the nation, converting waste wood to electricity.

FPL Group, one of the largest utilities in the country, has a number of solar and wind energy projects across Florida, including a \$2.4 billion investment in a 300 megawatt solar facility.

Also, during the Governor's trade mission to Brazil last year, a \$183 million agreement was signed between Renewable Fuels

of Tallahassee LLC and Controlsud International Group to build a system that converts trash into energy in Tallahassee.

Additionally, other companies are expanding conservation efforts and investing in upgrades at existing facilities to increase energy efficiency and save money while stimulating our economy.

Finally, in November, Florida was home to the first carbon-neutral college football game between Florida State University and the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Sunshine Can Fuel Economic Revival

Solar infrastructure is investment in our future

Solar energy infrastructure is an investment that will not only save residents money on their power bills and reduce the release of greenhouse gases, but it would help nurture an industry that can provide tens of thousands of jobs across our state.

Florida has already taken steps toward truly embracing this energy future. Last year lawmakers set aside \$3.5 million in solar energy incentives that provided rebates to residents and businesses for the purchase of solar energy equipment. Public demand for solar equipment proved so overwhelming that the money was exhausted in just six months. Today, a waiting list of more than 1,400 solar systems is petitioning for new rebates totaling another \$2.4 million.

To capitalize on this success it's critical for the state to continue to move ahead with this effective program. Gov. Charlie Crist asked state lawmakers this year to expand the incentive program from \$3.5 million to \$10 million, with at least \$50 million more for economic development grants and rebates to those pursuing alternative energy technology. [\[more\]](#)

Central Florida Builders Focus on Energy, Water

Court buyers by upgrading green features

Beazer Homes USA, which is building in 10 communities in the Orlando area, recently launched a nationwide program called eSMART by Beazer Homes. The Atlanta-based company says that every home it builds from now on will feature "high-performance products" that will have "an immediate impact on the home's annual operating costs."

Castle & Cooke, another California-based company active in Central Florida, has all of the builders in its Oakland Park community in west Orange County using a range of products and techniques that meet **Florida Green Building Coalition**

certification, from tankless, gas-fired water heaters to drought-tolerant landscaping. [\[more\]](#)

EPA Launches New Energy Efficiency Program

Campaign urges 'save green by going green'

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a national campaign to help Americans join in the fight against climate change. The campaign, "Change the World, Start with Energy Star" helps people make important energy-efficient changes at home and at work that can add up to significant reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Buildings contribute about 40 percent of the nation's emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas, as most of the energy used in buildings comes from the burning of fossil fuels. These emissions can be reduced substantially through energy efficiency and the steps of the Energy Star pledge. If every American household took part in this new Energy Star pledge, it would save more than \$18 billion in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 18 million cars. Individuals can take the pledge at:

<http://www.energystar.gov/changetheworld>

Sincerely,

Suzanne B. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

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