



GreenTrends

The electronic newsletter of the FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING COALITION

September 24, 2008

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Languell Takes Reins at FGBC

Dr. Jennifer Languell, owner of Trifecta in Fort Myers, was recently tapped as President of the Florida Green Building Coalition.

Languell holds a bachelor's degree in materials science and a master's degree in civil engineering/construction management. In 2006, she was named the National Association of Home Builders' Green Advocate of the Year and won the Council for Sustainable Florida Leadership Award. She is serving her second term on the FGBC Board and chairs the Standards Committee.

Terry Janssen, president of EcoTech Water, LLC in St. Petersburg Beach, was elected FGBC Vice President, **Carol Goodwin**, owner of Goodwin Heart Pine Company in Micanopy, will serve as Treasurer, and **William (Bill) Lites** of Glatting Jackson in Orlando was elected Secretary.

GREEN Act Pushes Affordable Housing Incentives

On September 17, 2008, the House passed the Green Resources for Energy Efficiency Act (the GREEN Act, H.R. 6078) as part of the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6889) by a vote of 236 to 189.

The GREEN Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by Rep. Ed Perlmutter (Colo.), aims to strengthen HUD's commitment to energy efficiency while providing needed flexibility.

It provides incentives to financial institutions to finance energy efficient homes affordable to low-income families; promotes energy efficient and location efficient mortgages; and ensures nonprofit affordable housing developers have the capacity to build green.

The legislation would also establish a revolving loan fund for states and tribes to help homeowners and apartment building owners improve energy efficiency, including through renewable energy.

Building Code Date Postponed to March 1, 2009

Course

Bunnell, FL

**October 4, 2008
Green Expo**Southern Oaks
Tallahassee, FL**October 19-21, 2008
Campus & Community
Sustainability
Conference**University of Central
Florida
Orlando, FL**November 19-21,
2008****USGBC GreenBuild
Conference**Boston Convention Center
Boston, MA**Join Our List****Join Our Mailing List!**

The Florida Building Commission announced that the **effective date** of the 2007 **Florida Building Code** is postponed from December 31, 2008 to **March 1, 2009**. The delay will provide additional time for the Commission to review and take action on the proposed glitch code changes. Additionally, it will allow both the glitch code change supplement, including the 15 percent increase in energy efficiency of buildings, and the first edition of the 2007 Florida Building Code to go into effect at the same time.

Century Commission to Develop Water Policies

As stated in its Second Annual Report, the **Century Commission** believes "a long-term water conservation, use and supply plan, for environmental, agricultural and public consumption purposes" is essential for a sustainable quality of life in Florida. To this end, the Century Commission will convene a statewide **Water Congress**, on **September 25-26, 2008**, to develop a comprehensive set of sustainable water use and supply action steps. [[More](#)]

Town of Harmony Receives FGBC Certification

Harmony, an 11,000 acre master-planned community in **Osceola County**, was recently certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition - making it Central Florida's largest green development and only the ninth in the state that has achieved this honor.

In conjunction with the FGBC certification, all homes are built to Energy Star® standards that require energy-efficiency ratings that exceed state energy code. [[More](#)]

FGBC Programs Gain Local HBA Support

Charlotte-Desoto BIA, **Citrus County BA**, the **HBA of Sarasota County**, and **Pasco County BA** are the most recent local home building associations to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) supporting the FGBC Green Home and FGBC Green Land Development standards.

The MOUs establish partnerships that strive to promote affordable green building, by advocating incentives for builders and developers and by creating resources to educate and encourage the public to consider green building.

NAHB Outlines Concerns with WaterSense

In public comments submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NAHB has made a number of suggestions

to improve a draft of the Agency's Water-Efficient Single-Family New Home Specification, which will be used to designate "WaterSense" homes.

Included in the list of concerns are the requirement to install a Pressure Regulating Valve on private well systems, that all hot water pipes be insulated to an R4 minimum, limiting the amount of turf used in landscaping, and prohibiting the use of fountains and other landscape devices. [\[More\]](#)

DOE Issues Renewable Energy Loan Guarantees

Up to \$30.5 Billion Available

The US Department of Energy (DOE) has issued Renewal Energy [Loan Guarantees](#) up to \$30.5 Billion. DOE will consider projects derived from the list of technology categories identified below:

Category 1: Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Category 2: Biomass

Category 3: Efficient Electricity Transmission, Distribution and Storage

Category 4: Energy Efficient Building Technologies and Applications

Category 5: Geothermal

Category 6: Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies

Category 7: Energy Efficiency Projects

Category 8: Solar

Category 9: Wind and Hydropower

[DOE Solicitation Document](#)

Builders Can Use New Tax Credit to Boost Sales

Prospective first-time homebuyers who have been sitting on the fence now have a significant financial incentive to explore the opportunities available in today's housing market. H.R. 3221, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 - which was passed by the Congress on July 26 and signed by President Bush on July 30 - allows first-time home buyers to take a \$7,500 tax credit from the purchase of a single-family home, townhome or condominium apartment. [\[More\]](#)

NAHB Green Building Award Nominations Open

Entry Deadline is January 31, 2009

The 2009 NAHB National Green Building Awards will honor excellence in green residential design and construction practices and outstanding green advocacy efforts.

Awards will be given in several categories: Advocate of the Year (Builder, Remodeler, Individual, Group); Green Project of the Year (Single-family, Remodel, Multifamily); Green Development of the Year; HBA Green Building Program of the

Year; and Outstanding Green Marketing. A new category - the Local Government Award - has been established to recognize a government body nominated by a local home builders association for its work to allow and encourage green practices.

To be eligible, projects must have been started after June 2007 and substantially completed by December 2008. [\[More\]](#)

HUD Encourages Greener Public Housing

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued guidance that "strongly encourages Public Housing Agencies to use solar, wind and other renewable energy sources and green construction and rehab techniques whenever they procure for maintenance, construction, or modernization." The [notice](#) describes green design, construction, maintenance and modernization and procurement principles and practices. It also cites leading green development programs as reference, including Green Communities. [\[More\]](#)

NewsNotes

Congratulations to FGBC Board member **Chris Wrenn** and his wife, Amy, on the birth of new son, [Daniel](#). Chris and Amy also have a daughter, Emily (11) and son, Ethan (4).

Sincerely,

Suzanne B. Cook, CAE
Executive Director

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