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:
Lakeside Remodel by Design Freedom

When architect Cathy Svercl of Design Freedom, Inc. planned a Lakeside retreat makeover, she relied on the infamous 'Not So Big® principles of Sarah Susanka, which focus on quality, not quantity, and how the space will be utilized.

The Dupree remodel is a modest two-bedroom lakefront home in Marion County designed for energy efficiency, low maintenance, and one-level living. Walls were removed to create a Great Room, and windows added for views and natural light. Features include EnergyStar cool roof, secondary water barrier, spray foam insulation with thermal barrier coating, injected foam block wall insulation, fibercement siding over rainscreen exterior, EnergyStar ceiling fans and appliances, no step entry and shower, LP tankless water heater, WaterSense toilets and shower heads, composite porch decking, cross-ventilation, dual pane fiberglass windows and doors, low and zero VOC paints, no carpeting, in-wall pest management system, kitchen range hood vented to exterior, and LED recessed ceiling lighting.

Daikin McQay Leads in Commercial HVAC Efficiency

Daikin McQuay’s Rebel rooftop unit system is the first to meet DOE's Rooftop Unit (RTU) Challenge. Five manufacturers - Daikin McQuay, Carrier, Lennox, 7AC Technologies, and Rheem-are participating in this challenge to commercialize highly efficient commercial air conditioners that satisfy a DOE-issued specification for energy savings and performance. The companies have until April 1, 2013 to submit a product for independent evaluation according to the specification. When built to meet the specification, these units are expected to reduce energy use by as much as 50% over current standards. Nationwide, if all 10 to 20 ton RTUs met the specification, businesses would save over $1 billion each year.
Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds are a special type of federally-supported state and municipal bonds that can be used to finance clean energy projects at extremely low interest rates. Funded by the 2009 Recovery Act, QECBs are meant to help local governments invest in their communities, save energy, and create jobs. Under the program, the federal government will repay about 70% of the interest on qualifying bonds. $3.2 billion was dedicated to this little-known program, and over $2.5 remains available. Florida's portion of $190 Million hasn't been touched. Why? [More] [QECB Primer]

SRWMD Enacts Watering Restrictions

The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) board voted on May 29, 2012, to enact watering restrictions beginning June 13, 2012. Under the water shortage order, restrictions, with some exemptions, will apply to residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial users within the District's boundaries. This includes all of Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties, and portions of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Jefferson, Levy and Putnam counties. Generally, the order restricts watering to once a week, during certain hours.

Three of the state's five districts previously had some permanent watering restrictions in place. The only district now without restrictions is Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD), which has a 2007 emergency order in place that stops short of restricting water use. [More]

State Judge Sides with DEP In Water Quality Rules Challenge

An administrative law judge has upheld the state's proposed new water quality rules that are intended to replace federal rules that agriculture and industry groups oppose. DEP officials will now notify the federal EPA of the judge's decision, said Drew Bartlett, director of DEP's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. Then the federal agency will have 60 days to approve the state rules and then would have to withdraw the federal rule for the state rules to take effect.

Environmental groups had challenged the rules, called numeric nutrient criteria, saying they are weak and unenforceable and would lead to continued toxic algae blooms in Florida waters. However, Administrative Law Judge Bram D. E. Canter said in his 58-page order that the groups failed to make their case with the evidence presented.
TMDL Water Quality Restoration Grant Opportunity
Application Deadline is July 1

Three times a year, funding is awarded for the implementation of best management practices designed to reduce pollutant loads to impaired waters from urban stormwater discharges. This funding is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as the TMDL Water Quality Restoration Grant.

Eligible projects include:

- The project reduces stormwater pollutant loadings from urban areas that discharge to waterbodies on the state's verified list of impaired waters.
- The project is at least at the 60% design phase.
- The project is permitted or the permit has been scheduled for approval at the next meeting of the water management district governing board or Department.
- The project includes storm event monitoring to determine the actual load reduction.
- The construction will be completed within three years of appropriation of the funds by the Legislature in order to ensure funds remain available.
- The applicant provides a minimum of 50% of the total project cost in matching funds, of which at least 25% are provided by the local government.
- The grant funds are used for construction of best management practices, monitoring to determine pollutant load reductions, or public education activities specifically associated with the project and may only occur after the date of contract. Funds spent in advance of contract may be used for match, such as design, land acquisition, and other costs incurred by the applicant.

FHFC Obtains Approval to Expand 'Hardest Hit' Funding Relief

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), a private entity that runs state housing programs, asked the U.S. Treasury Department in April to expand the parameters of the Hardest Hit Fund, a program designed to help unemployed or underemployed homeowners hang on to their homes until they find a new job. The Treasury Department has approved the changes that are designed to increase the number of homeowners who are eligible to participate in the program.

As part of the changes, those eligible for the program can receive a maximum of $24,000 over 12 months for help with mortgage payments, or up to $25,000 to bring their balance...
current. Previously, the limit was up to $12,000 over six months and up to $6,000 to pay the past due balance. The new parameters also eliminate the requirement that a mortgage must have been issued prior to 2009.

'Solarize' Project Shows How to Reduce PV Costs by 35 Percent

A program which reduces the cost of solar PV by as much as 35% is gaining popularity around the country. A neighborhood in Portland purchased solar PV in bulk and drove down the costs by 30-35% for everyone who participated. The program named Solarize is documented in a guidebook developed by the Department of Energy's SunShot Challenge and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). This guidebook explains how to set up a Solarize program as well as offers case studies for financing and implementation.

Florida Water Star Commercial and Institutional Certifier Training and Exam

Date and Time:
June 22, 2012
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location:
Maitland Service Center
601 South Lake Destiny Road
Suite 200
Maitland, FL 32751

Information:
This technical training and exam is for professionals seeking to become Florida Water Star Commercial and Institutional certifiers. Attendees must have a background in green building inspections as well as a comprehensive knowledge of irrigation system design and operation.

Registration:
To register, complete this form and submit to Deirdre Irwin at dirwin@sjrwmd.com. There is no charge for this training and exam.

For more information about Florida Water Star, visit www.floridaswater.com/floridawaterstar or contact Deirdre Irwin at
Funding Opportunities

Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds
Florida local governments have $190,146,000 available from the federal government to finance energy conservation projects. Why is it that $0 funds have utilized? [More]

Home Depot Community Impact Grants
Applications accepted through August 13, 2012
Up to $5,000 for projects that improve the "physical-health" of communities [More]

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]

Surf's Up! The construction economy is recovering and we feel the excitement everywhere. Join us for the annual GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow hosted this year at the beautiful PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, September 12-14, 2012.

For more information: http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org/greentrends

Exhibit space is limited so you're encouraged to reserve a booth soon. For more information, download the exhibitor information brochure.
DOE has wide range of funding programs available for renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.

Check out these websites for eligibility and details:

- **Loan Programs**
- **Geothermal**
- **Solar**
- **Wind & Water**

DOE Funding Announcements
[More]

Solar Plug-and-Play Funding Available
[More]

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**Exhibitor Early-Bird Discount**
available through June 30, 2012

**Member Discount Rate:** $450  
**Non-Member Rate:** $575

**After June 30, 2012**
Member Rate: $599  
Non-Member Rate: $750