In This Issue

- Articles of Interest: Buyer’s Favor ‘Green’ Houses, but They’re Often Not Easy to Identify or Appraise
- Oldsmar Earns FBCG Green Local Government Certification
- Conn Becomes First FBCG Certified Green Professional
- South Florida Assessing Impact of Climate Change On Roadways, Railroads and Airports

Oldsmar Earns FBCG Green Government Certification

The City of Oldsmar, located in Pinellas County, is the 45th local government to achieve the Florida Green Building Coalition’s (FBCG) Green Local Government certification, earning 113 points out of the 345 applicable points, for a silver-level designation at 33 percent.

Oldsmar dedicated a considerable amount of effort to creating community outreach programs and education on sustainability, such as a green business recognition program, recycling guidelines, consumer green products purchasing information, offering free or discounted green products, providing home energy audits, and maintaining organic community gardens.

Inhouse, Oldsmar developed and implemented an environmentally preferred purchasing program, offered alternative commuting incentives to employees, and implemented an energy conservation procedure for computers and other electronic equipment. [More Achievements]

Conn Becomes First FBCG Certified Green Professional

Randy Conn, principal of ES Green & Company, a green certification and energy rating service provider in Tallahassee, is the first person in the state to earn the Florida Green Building Coalition (FBCG) Certified Green Professional Designation.

Conn has been a state certified contractor for 27 years, with experience in commercial and custom residential
Legislature Considers Renewable Energy Tax Exemption

DOE Develops Uniform Methods For Determining Energy Efficiency Savings

Progress Energy Issues RFP for Green Power Supplies

Sandia National Labs Creates Online PV Value Calculator

Agricultural Water Bill Wins Support

Schutt to Speak on "Greening HOAs" at Indian River Expo

FGBC Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents

Articles of Interest

FGBC In the News

Buyers Favor 'Green' Houses, but They're Often Not Easy to Identify or Appraise [More]

Obama Budget Allocates $131 Million for Emerging Technologies in Energy Efficiency [More]

Florida Economic Yearbook - 2013 Regional snapshots [More]

Quick Links

Join FGBC

Linkedin Group

Facebook Blog

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

Legislature Considers Renewable Energy Exemption

A bill exempting renewable energy improvements from property tax assessments passed the House Wednesday, but the bigger hurdle may be in passing the Senate. HB 277 is the only legislation dealing with renewable energy that is moving in the Legislature. The bill would implement a constitutional amendment that passed in 2008 with 61 percent of the vote. The amendment also exempted improvements for wind resistance from property tax assessments.

Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee and HB 277 sponsor, said she doesn't know why the bill hasn't passed the construction. He is an FGBC Certifying Agent having certified over 400 homes, and in 2010 he received the organization's "Certifying Agent of the Year" award. In 2011 Randy and his wife, Jane, received FGBC's Volunteers of the Year Award. His passion for green building and FGBC was instrumental in developing the green building certification market in Florida's Panhandle. Randy holds a BA in English from Florida State University and frequently teaches green building classes for organizations around the state.

The FGBC Certified Green Professional designation will be offered on August 22-23, 2013 during the FGBC annual GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota. [Designation Info] [GreenTrends]

South Florida Assessing Impact of Climate Change On Roadways, Railroads and Airports

South Florida transportation planners think that recent road washouts caused by Hurricane Sandy are just the beginning of the impact that climate change and rising sea levels will have on the region's transportation infrastructure.

That initial assessment showed that 81 miles of roadway from Miami-Dade County to Palm Beach could be inundated if the sea level rose 1 foot. That increased to 893 miles if the sea level rose 3 feet. In Broward County, about 9.5 miles of roadway could be affected by a 1-foot sea level rise, about 76.4 miles at 2 feet and about 295.8 miles at 3 feet.

A Regional Compact projected sea level will rise 3 to 7 inches by 2030 and 9 to 24 inches by 2060. That makes it seem like the problem is in the distant future, but recent events show the area is feeling the impact now, say regional planners. [More]
Senate but she thinks its prospects are better this year. That's because it doesn't include exemptions for wind resistance improvements, which could increase the loss of tax revenue for cities and counties. The Senate companion, SB 1064, has passed two committee stops without opposition votes and has one more stop before it reaches the Senate floor.

"I think it makes common sense," she said of the bill. "When people want to make some improvements to their home to lower their utility bills and take part in energy conservation and renewable energy decisions, they shouldn't then have their property values raised for ad valorem taxes." [More]

DOE Develops Uniform Methods For Determining Energy Efficiency Savings

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have published protocols for estimating energy savings for residential and commercial energy efficiency programs and measures through the recently released Uniform Methods Project: Methods for Determining Energy Efficiency Savings for Specific Measures.

The protocols provide a straightforward method for evaluating gross energy savings for each of the most common residential and commercial measures and programs offered by ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs in the United States.

Using a single measurement and verification protocol to calculate the energy savings from a particular measure or program will increase the credibility of the reported savings. This increased credibility will give regulators, policymakers, and other stakeholders a greater level of confidence about reported savings and reduce the risks of investing in energy efficiency. [More] [List of Protocols by Category]
The new "PV Value" online tool developed by Sandia National Laboratories and Energy Sense Finance is intended to help determine the value of a new or existing photovoltaic (PV) system installed on residential and commercial properties. It is designed to be used by real estate appraisers, mortgage underwriters, credit analysts, real property assessors, insurance claims adjusters and PV industry sales staff. For appraisers, the inputs specific to PV in the Residential Green and Energy Efficient Addendum can be used as inputs to PV Value™.

**Agricultural Water Bill Wins Support**

A bill that was shaping up to be the most controversial fight over water in the legislative session now has support from environmental groups that were opposing it. SB 948 by Sen. Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring, would place the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on par with utilities in water supply planning. The bill is a priority of Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam.

A series of amendments offered by Grimsley ensured that water conservation be factored into projections of agricultural water use and water projects on private lands. The amendments also ensured that water supply projects on private lands meet the state "public interest" test for water use and don't harm existing users.

**Schutt to Speak on "Greening HOAs"**

John Schutt will be presenting "Greening Your HOA" during the upcoming Florida Green Business Expo being held at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce on April 25-26, 2013. The program covers strategies that can improve sustainability practices while saving money for HOAs. John is currently president of his HOA in Vero Beach and is a former FGBC Board director.

The expo will host two days of presentations and exhibits by manufacturers and organizations displaying products, services, and activities promoting energy solutions, both conventional and alternative.

**Earn Cash Back with FGBC Rewards Program**

The Florida Green Building Coalition Membership Committee recently announced a "Cash Back" rewards program. For every new member recruited, the sponsoring FGBC member...
FGBC Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents

New Members:
- Kelly Campbell, Collier County Government, Naples  
  FGBC Sponsor: Skip Camp
- Brett Gelsomino, ZOM Development, Fort Lauderdale  
  FGBC Sponsor: Kyle Abney
- John Hackler, Synergy Custom Builders, Orlando
- Jason Vermilya, Synergy Custom Builders, Orlando
- Jeff Light, Two Trails, Inc., Sarasota  
  FGBC Sponsor: Drew Smith
- Penny Phillippi, Whiteday Enterprises, LLC, Avon Park
- Richard Reade, City of Delray Beach, Delray Beach
- John Rinehart, Crescent Communities, Winter Garden

Re-joining Members:
- Jimmy Martin, Gordon’s Castle, Jacksonville
- Jim Sutton, Gordon’s Castle, Jacksonville

New Certifying Agents:
- Jeff Light, Two Trails, Inc., Sarasota

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cook, CAE  
FGBC Executive Director