Building 10 on Chico's National Store Support Center campus in Fort Myers, Fla. has been awarded the Florida Green Commercial Building designation by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Florida Green Commercial Building Certification program. With a score of 130 points, Chico's Building 10 received the bronze level certification on June 21, 2013. The designation represents achievements in a number of categories, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, site preservation, indoor air quality, materials, and durability, including disaster mitigation.

Architectural services and FGBC Certification documentation for Chico's National Store Support Center were provided by GMA Architects and Planners of Fort Myers who have been serving the needs of Chico's on their 60 acre campus since designing their World Headquarters Building over 15 years ago. GMA has been a continuous member of the Florida Green Building Coalition since FGBC was formed in 2000. At the time, GMA employee Rob Andrys served as the first FGBC Vice President in 2001. Site design was by Hole, Montes & Associates, with Theresa Artuso providing the Landscape Architecture. HOK Architects Tampa office provided interior space planning and design services, Balfour Beatty Construction was the Construction Manager.

Some of the unique, innovative green strategies utilized by Chico's include:

- Fleet of electric and solar powered golf carts are utilized by Associates while on campus in lieu of
- Combustion vehicles to reduce fossil fuel use and emissions.
- Food Service purchases local and organic products and uses plates, cups, and utensils made from biodegradable, compostable material.
- Associate Wellness Program - The fully outfitted Campus Wellness Center features no-cost personal trainers, diet counseling, and smoking cessation programs. There are also outdoor walking and running trails on campus and encouragement for bicycling. Incentives for health insurance programs are offered for Associates who participate in these programs.
- Employee Training - Every Chico's employee attends an intensive training program as a part of the employment process. In addition to the normal company "Policies & Procedures", a significant amount of time is spent on explaining the campus wide recycling program, preferred parking program, onsite access to basic services, and Green Initiatives Policy. A brochure is also included outlining the sustainable attributes included in Building 10.
- Green Policy - As a result of the FGBC experience, several of Chico's standard operating procedures regarding sustainability have been formalized as Policy, such as green housekeeping and pest control.
- Onsite Services - Chico's provides a large array of onsite basic services to Associates, not typical of this type of business. Some are outlined in the FGBC credit for "Access to Basic Services," but Chico's continues to expand the program and eliminate the need for additional travel miles.

The city of Tallahassee is the second local government to complete the five-year recertification process for the Florida Green Building Coalition's Green Local Government designation.

And with a score of 57.6 percent of its 363 applicable points and its exceptional commitment to the certification process through the leadership of Cynthia Barber, Director of Environmental Policy & Energy Services, and Adam Jacobs, Strategic Programs Evaluator, Tallahassee beats Miami-Dade County for the #1 position among all 44 FGBC certified local governments.
Here is a summary of HB 269 changes to the Florida Building Code:

- Revises noticing requirements of alleged violators of local codes and ordinances;
- Adds that an existing-system inspection or evaluation and assessment of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems is not required for a residential remodeling addition or modification to a single-family home if a bedroom is not added;
- Provides that certain residential construction may not impact sewage treatment or disposal systems or encroach on septic areas as determined by a local health department floor and site plan review and clarifies that a verification of the location of a system is not an inspection or evaluation and assessment of the system;
- Increases the maximum amount municipalities and counties may charge for unlicensed contractors and unlicensed electrical and alarm system contracting citations to $2,000 and increases the civil penalties to $2,500 per day for each violation;
- Revises local government and Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) collection retention percentages for unpaid fines and costs ordered by the Construction Industry Licensing Board;
- Removes a requirement that local governments send minor violation notices of noncompliance to contractors prior to seeking fines and other disciplinary penalties;
- Extends the period for grandfathering of "registered" electrical, specialty electrical and alarm system contractor licenses to statewide "certified" licenses;
- Prohibits adopting mandatory sprinkler provisions of the International Residential Code within the Florida Building Code or any local amendments to the state code;
- Adds to the Florida Building Commission a representative of a natural gas distribution system;
- Specifies that residential heating and cooling systems need only meet the manufacturer's approval and listing of equipment;
- Removes the requirement that a building energy-efficiency rating system provide a uniform rating scale of the efficiency of buildings and expands the list of entities that may provide building energy-efficiency rating systems to four named entities; and
- Eliminates the DBPR's responsibilities regarding a statewide uniform building energy-efficiency rating system and provides building energy-efficiency system definitions.

Read the final analysis of HB269 that was signed into law and takes effect July 1, 2013.
US EPA Report Shows Interactions Between Land Use, Transportation & Environmental Quality

Decisions about how and where we build our communities have significant impacts on the natural environment and on human health. Cities, regions, states, and the private sector need information about the environmental effects of their land use and transportation decisions to mitigate growth-related environmental impacts and to improve community quality of life and human health.

The newly revised "Our Built and Natural Environment" discusses the status of and trends in land use, development, and transportation and their environmental implications. The study provides evidence that certain kinds of land use and transportation strategies can reduce the environmental and human health impacts of development. Findings include:

- Development in and adjacent to already developed areas can help protect natural resources like wetlands, streams, coastlines, and critical habitat.
- Residents of transit-oriented developments are two to five times more likely to use transit for commuting and non-work trips than others living in the same region.
- In general, the greater the population density of an area, the less the area's residents tend to drive. Doubling residential density across a metropolitan region could reduce household vehicle travel by between 5 and 12 percent.
- Communities with streets designed for the safety of all users can encourage walking and biking and help people lead healthier lifestyles.
- A review of green building retrofits of commercial buildings around the world found energy savings of 50 to 70 percent.
- Water-efficient household appliances and fixtures can yield significant water savings, and careful selection of construction materials can conserve natural resources and improve indoor air quality. Site-scale green infrastructure can also reduce development's impacts on water quality.

Join a webinar discussing the report on Wednesday, July 24 at 2 p.m. [Registration]

Don't miss the Land Development workshop on August 21, 2013 during the GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota. Dr. Pierce Jones, Program for Resource Efficient Communities at the University of Florida will present "Minimizing Risk, Maximizing Outcomes: How Design Impacts Resource Efficiencies," a case study on Restoration, a new DRI in Volusia County.

**Florida Green**

Certifications To Date

Homes
- 542 Homes in 2013
- 6,023 total as of 7/8/13

Commercial Buildings
- Registered: 23
- Certified: 8

Hi-Rise
- Registered: 8
- Certified: 1

Land Development
- Registered: 61
- Certified: 12

Local Government
- Registered: 57
- Certified: 46

Multi-Family
- In 2013
- 8 Buildings
- 141 Units

Recent Certifications
Chico’s NSSC – Bldg 10
- Fort Myers
- 130,000 s.f. commercial office building

Florida Water Star Certifications
NWFWMD and SRWMD Areas
- 6 Homes

Education Opportunities

1000 Friends of Florida
Free monthly webinars
[More]

August 20-21, 2013
FGBC Certifying Agent Designation Course
Ritz-Carlton
Sarasota, FL
[Register]

August 21, 2013
FGBC Certifying Agent Annual Verification Course
Ritz-Carlton
Sarasota, FL
(In conjunction with GreenTrends)
[Register]

August 23, 2013
Environmental Symposium
Univ. of North Florida
Jacksonville, FL
[More]
The Solar Foundation released A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: Encouraging Solar Development through Community Association Policies and Processes to help homeowner association (HOA) boards and other community leaders effectively bring more solar to their communities.

With support from the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs), this 28-page guide highlights a range of strategies that balance the desire to encourage solar development with the need to honor rules that maintain community standards. Such strategies can provide an attractive opportunity for residents to increase their property values with clean energy upgrades.

The potential for solar energy development within HOA-governed communities is approximately 13 million townhouses and homes in gated communities or subdivisions. According to the report, "If only 5% of these homes were to invest in an average-sized residential solar energy system, it would add 3.3 gigawatts (GW) of clean power capacity to the electric grid - as much solar energy as was added in the entire U.S. in 2012." [More]

Forget the argument over what may be causing it. If we take seriously the concern, that sea level may rise by as much as seven inches in the next 30 years, what should Florida communities be doing about it, what will it affect, and how much will it cost?

For more than 100 years, scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have monitored tide gauges placed along Key West's western shoreline. The precise gauges, among the oldest in the country, indicate that over the last century, the sea has risen by nearly nine inches at Key West. The impact is familiar to local residents - waves cresting seawalls and flooded streets that once remained dry after storms.

Governments and planners are beginning to take the sea level rise seriously. The Tampa area, Punta Gorda, Satellite Beach in Brevard County and northeast Florida have all commissioned sea level rise studies. Four south Florida counties, Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe, have adopted the Corps' estimate as part of a "climate change compact" that describes the impact of sea level rise and how they may have to respond. [More]

Plan to attend the local government workshop at GreenTrends, August 21, 2013 during the GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow.
Florida (Shamefully) Lags in Solar Power Generation

Despite Florida's worldwide reputation as "The Sunshine State," the state lagged behind more than a dozen others - including Massachusetts, Maryland and Ohio - in building solar power capacity last year on homes and businesses.

Florida businesses and homes added 24.2 megawatts in solar power capacity in 2012, ranked No. 17, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association. California, at No. 1, installed more than 1,000 megawatts of capacity. Maryland installed 74.3 megawatts.

"We have the sun in Florida; we just don't have the policy," said Wayne Wallace, president of the Florida Solar Energy Industries Association. "Somebody needs to stand up and provide the leadership to a comprehensive energy policy in Florida."

Wallace operates Solar Source, a solar contractor in Largo. He said other states offer greater incentives for both businesses and homeowners to add solar power systems, plus they allow third-party businesses to construct solar power systems - on top of malls, for example - to generate power for sale back to utilities. Florida doesn't allow those third party systems but it does set aside about $25 million annually in rebates for new solar systems. [More]

Solar Source will be speaking at this year's GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota, August 21-23, 2013.

DEP Changes Statewide Recycling Reporting

Florida's statewide recycling rate jumped from 30 percent in 2011 to either 35 or 48 percent in 2012, depending on which figure you choose to accept. Both numbers are included in a new Florida Department of Environmental Protection annual report on recycling. The higher increase of 48 percent reflects a 2010 law change that expanded recycling to include waste burning to produce energy. The smaller increase to 35 percent represents the "traditional" recycling rate without counting waste-to-energy. Both numbers reflect a 5 percent increase because the reuse of some construction waste now is counted as recycling. Waste companies helped persuade the Legislature to change the law in 2010 toward meeting the state goal of 75 percent recycling by 2020. [More]

Supreme Court Rules for Florida Property Owner In Koontz Land Use Case

In a victory for advocates of private property rights, the U.S. Supreme Court said a Florida property owner may be owed
compensation from a government agency that declined to award him a development permit for his land.

In a 5-4 ruling with the court's five conservative justices in the majority, the court said Coy Koontz could pursue a property rights claim against the St. Johns River Water Management District. The decision was the culmination of a more than 18-year battle by Koontz and his late father over the development of their nearly 15-acre parcel of land.

The legal issue was whether the agency's action constituted a "taking" subject to compensation, under the so-called takings clause of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

After Florida designated much of the parcel as protected wetlands, Koontz proposed to develop about a quarter of it and dedicate the rest for conservation, only to have local officials insist that he pay money to protect wetlands elsewhere. Koontz said no. [More]

Need Some Inspiration…Check Out This Video

Fourth Graders Power Their Classroom with Solar Energy [Video]

Energy Star Requirements Raised For Refrigerators and Freezers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in June that it has revised its Energy Star requirements for residential refrigerators and freezers. Under the new standards, Energy Star-certified refrigerators and freezers will use at least 10% less energy than models meeting 2014 federal minimum efficiency standards.

Certain Energy Star refrigerators and freezers with connected features will allow consumers to view real-time energy use, receive energy-related messages -such as an alert when the door has been left open- and manage appliance settings remotely. Refrigerators and freezers with connected functionality will also be "smart grid"-ready, meaning that with consumer permission, they will be able to respond to utility signals, including curtailing operations during more expensive peak demand times.

If all refrigerators and freezers sold in the United States were to meet the updated requirements, the energy cost savings would grow to more than $890 million each year while reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of taking more than one million vehicles off the road. By recycling an old refrigerator and replacing it with a new Energy Star-certified refrigerator, consumers can save from $150-$1,100 on energy costs over the product's lifetime.
Building Performance Database Training Offered

The Buildings Performance Database (BPD) is the largest free, publicly available database of residential and commercial building energy performance information in the country. The US Dept. of Energy (US DOE) is offering a webinar on how to take advantage of the tool. Three webinar dates, which will all include the same content, are scheduled for July 17, August 6 and August 26. The presentation will teach you how to contribute and use data, as well as provide a Q&A period.

Specific topics include:

- Analyze information about real buildings' location; age; size; function; electricity and fuel consumption; equipment information and operational characteristics
- Discover opportunities for improvement by examining groups of similar buildings
- Forecast project performance and risk using statistical analysis

With more than 1,500 users since the launch in June, the BPD provides access to an anonymous data set of over 60,000 single-family, multifamily, commercial, and public buildings from across the country. The DOE is continually looking for data contributions, and new data sets are being added regularly.

Registration Links:
August 6, 4-5pm EDT
August 26, 4-5pm EDT

New England States Add HERS Index to MLS

Working with the Vermont Green Home Alliance (VGHA), the Northern New England Real Estate Network (NNEREN) has included HERS Index Scores of homes in their Multiple Listing Service (MLS) as part of their effort of "greening" the MLS. NNEREN covers the states of New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and an area in northern Massachusetts. The following features are now included in the NNEREN MLS:

- Home Energy Rating Index Scores
- Third-party Verified Building Certifications, such as:
  - Energy Star Certified Home
  - HERS Rated
  - LEED
  - NGBS (National Green Building Standard)
  - Passive House
  - Vermont Builds Greener Certified (Local
There has also been a HERS Database for Appraisers developed, since many homes built are custom and never listed on the MLS. To address that situation, Efficiency Vermont, at the request of the VGHA and with support of NNEREN, has created a separate database that includes all homes that participate in Efficiency Vermont’s Residential New Construction Services (and gut rehabs).

**Earn the FGBC Green Professional Designation**

Credentials are what set you above the competition and distinguish you as an expert - the go to person for excellence. Don't miss the opportunity to earn the [FGBC Certified Green Professional](http://www.fgbc.org) designation by attending the Florida Green Building Coalition's annual [GreenTrends Conference & Tradeshow](http://www.fgbc.org) set for August 21-23, 2013 at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota.

This year we've designed the education program so that by attending both days and passing an exam you're eligible to apply for the FGBC Green Professional designation. (Check the FGBC website for other qualifying requirements.)

This intensive 2-day program covers all the bases: building science principles, site development, building envelopes, resource and energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality, effective operations and maintenance, and marketing the value of green. The program also offers the following continuing education credits:

- 16 CEUs for Contractors-CILB Course #0608298
- 12 CEUs for Architects-Course #9878267

GreenTrends 2013 "bridges the divide" between standard skills and the new skills required to understand and successfully implement green building. [Register Today!](http://www.fgbc.org)

**Builder Confidence Hits Major Milestone in June**

Builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes hit a significant milestone in June, surging eight points to a reading of 52 on the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI). Any reading over 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor.
"This is the first time the HMI has been above 50 since April 2006, and surpassing this important benchmark reflects the fact that builders are seeing better market conditions as demand for new homes increases," said NAHB chairman Rick Judson, a home builder and developer from Charlotte, N.C. "With the low inventory of existing homes, an increasing number of buyers are gravitating toward new homes."

The eight-point jump in the index was the biggest one-month gain since August and September of 2002, when the HMI recorded a similar increase of eight points. [More]

Skanska Withdraws from US Chamber Over LEED Debate

Skanska USA has resigned from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a protest against the chamber's support of an initiative to discredit a more stringent LEED standard. The chamber is backing the American High-Performance Building Coalition, a lobbying group that Skanska says is seeking to effectively ban the future use of LEED for government buildings. [More]

Bill Proposes to Create Federal Mortgage Insurance Corp. to Replace Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac

The Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2013, also known as the Corker-Warner Bill (S. 1217), has been introduced into the U.S. Senate. The bill would replace Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac with a Federal Mortgage Insurance Corporation, a single government guarantor similar to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Among other things, the bill provides that the proposed FMIC establish a Mortgage Insurance Fund, develop standard uniform securitization agreements, oversee the common securitization platform currently being developed by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and maintain a database of uniform loan level information on eligible mortgages. The bill, as proposed, would authorize the FMIC to sell data from the database to the public. The bill is not clear on whether such information sold could be used for commercial purposes or whether the information from the database could be made available to appraisers.

Big changes to the bill are expected, and the legislation still faces an uphill battle to pass the Senate. However, the Bill is expected to serve as a starting point for discussion of government-sponsored enterprises (GSE) reform efforts in this Congress. Members of the House Financial Services Committee continue to work on a House version, which is expected to look significantly different than the bipartisan Corker-Warner bill. [More]
To make multi-unit condensing tankless water heater installation easier and more flexible for commercial contractors, Rinnai America Corp. has introduced its Tankless Rack System (TRS). The system is available in free-standing or wall-mounted options for indoor or outdoor applications and can be ordered, built, and shipped fully assembled, including gas and water manifolds, to any location in the United States.

Indoor installations can be configured with either the manufacturer's standard polypropylene concentric venting or its new common venting system. Individual racks can hold between two and six of the company's 199,000-BTU condensing units, which have an energy factor of 0.95. For even larger tankless systems, multiple racks can be banked to give commercial customers up to 25 units and nearly 5 million BTU of input capacity. The free-standing version of the fully assembled TRS fits through a standard 32-inch doorway, even with attached water heaters.

The TRS is available with the common venting system, which allows for the connection of up to eight 199,000-BTU condensing units together using the same exhaust and intake venting. According to the manufacturer, the common venting system allows for longer vent runs and utilizes only two terminations for each bank of units. An eight-unit system has a maximum vent length of 41 feet and offers 1.5 million BTU, and for seven or fewer units, the maximum length is 100 feet.

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 earns 10 percent of the new member's annual membership fee. Rewards are applied to the sponsor's annual renewal. Check the FGBC website for details and to download.

Certifying Agents this is a no-brainer for you. Every time you contract for certification services, be sure to include an FGBC membership in your contract price. Fill out the membership form and submit with payment to FGBC to earn your rewards.

FGBC Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents

New Members:
- Jim Barron, Barron Development Corporation, Fort Lauderdale
- Rudy Gomez, A-Plus Gemini Development, LLC, Miami
- Rhonda Haag, Monroe County Florida, Key Largo
- Shani Kruljac, Kessler Consulting, Inc., Tampa
- Patrick White, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, LLP., Naples

Re-joining Members:
- Antonio Jenkins, Guardian Community Resource Management, Lakeland

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cook, CAE
FGBC Executive Director