Home Energy Rating Option Proposed As Alternative Compliance for 2015 IECC

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), along with a long list of supporters, is proposing adding a new voluntary performance compliance path for the 2015 IECC: in addition to the option of prescriptive compliance and the current performance path, builders will have the option of complying by meeting the mandatory requirements, including the water heating provisions, and then meeting the target "Energy Rating Index" (ERI) score. The ERI score is defined as a numerical score where 100 is equivalent to the 2006 IECC and 0 is equivalent to a net-zero home. The current HERS (Home Energy Rating System) rating is compatible with the ERI requirements in the proposal so a builder could utilize a HERS rating to comply using the ERI path.

In addition, the builder must comply with the envelope requirements of the 2009 IECC as a mandatory minimum. These include minimum insulation and window performance. [More]
Taking first place for the **highest scoring FGBG Certified Green Home** in the state was **Phil Kean Designs** for 229 Alexander Place in Winter Park with a platinum-level score of 231 out of a 100-point required minimum. Congratulations also to **The Artec Group** for a close 2nd!

FGBG certified 1,345 homes last year, the highest year for home certifications in its 12-year history. A total of 92 builders participated in the FGBG Green Home certification program. The Top 10 Builders based on **Most Homes Certified**, were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Builder</th>
<th>City</th>
<th># of Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Builders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes by WestBay</td>
<td>Lithia</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Hovnanian Homes</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minto Communities LLC</td>
<td>Coconut Creek</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neal Communities</td>
<td>Lakewood Ranch</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHG Builders LLC</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Construction &amp; Development</td>
<td>Tallahassee</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor Morrison</td>
<td>Temple Terrace</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Ryan Homes</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Winner of the **FGBG Green Builder of the Year** award in the single-family category went to **Neal Communities** with a total of 210 FGBG Certified Green Homes.

In the multi-family category, **PHG Builders LLC** took home the **FGBG Green Multi-Family Builder of the Year** honor with 202 FGBG certified units.

The leading Certifying Agents based on total number of homes certified were, in alphabetical order:
* Kyle Abney 320
* Randy Conn 96
* Jennifer Languell 83
* Drew Smith 486
* Joseph Weaver 144
For the third year in a row, Drew Smith with Two Trails, Inc. in Sarasota earned FGBC Certifying Agent of the Year with 486 homes certified in 2012.

Each year the FGBC selects a volunteer of the year, based on nominations received from the general membership. This award honors an extraordinary FGBC member for their passionate belief in the mission of FGBC and for their contributions to its success. The 2013 FGBC Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Cindy Hall of Jensen Beach. As a Senior Officer, Cindy realized the importance of insulating FGBC from the impact of the recession. She was comprehensive in her thought processes and did not shy away from hard decisions that were necessary for FGBC's financial stability. But serving the members was always a focus with Cindy. She took the time to participate on just about every FGBC committee, making sure their voices were heard and the Board was attentive to their needs.

GSEs Still Finding Problems with Home Appraisals

Three years after the creation of a database seeking to standardize the home appraisal process, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac continue to see major issues in numerous appraisals submitted by mortgage lenders, American Banker reported Sept. 12.

Fannie Mae conducted a sampling of appraisals and determined that 17.6 percent contained contradictory information, typically pertaining to the condition or quality of the property, Robert Murphy, the GSE's director of collateral and single-family risk policy, told a Phoenix conference of risk managers. He added that those two factors are the most important in determining a property's value. [More]

Florida Offers $350M Aid to Underwater Homeowners

Florida homeowners who owe far more on mortgages than their houses are worth could get a break under a new $350 million state program. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) announced on Sept 20 that eligible people will be able to apply online for up to $50,000 to reduce mortgage principal.

The program is restricted to homeowners who owe 125 percent more than their homes are worth. The online application for the Florida Hardest-Hit Fund Principal Reduction
The Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County has received an Aurora Award for design excellence, sponsored by the Florida Home Builders Association, for its Forked Creek duplex in Englewood. Each of the 1290 sq ft units earned green certifications from the Florida Green Building Coalition (platinum-level), Energy Star (version 3.1), Florida Water StarSM, and Florida Friendly Landscape Program, by the University of Florida, IFAS Sarasota County Extension.

The design team included architect Mark Beebe with Beebe Design Studios, energy consultant Dennis Stroer with Calcs Plus, FGBC Certifying Agent Drew Smith with Two Trails, Inc., and Michael Sollitto, Habitat Director of Construction.

The duplex was built on an infill lot and featured concrete block construction, open cell spray foam insulation, borate treated roof trusses and interior lumber in lieu of soil poisoning, and Galvalume 5-V crimp metal roofing.

Fenestration included high efficiency PGT SH500 impact resistant, thermal insulated, low-e windows with an SHGC of 0.20 and impact resistant fiberglass exterior doors.

Energy efficiency was addressed with Energy Star appliances, LED and compact fluorescent lighting, and a 15 SEER, variable-speed heat pump system with a mechanically operated 4" fresh air intake. The two units received confirmed HERS indexes of 67 and 66.

Drought tolerant plants and turf were used and no irrigation system was installed. Rain barrels were provided by the Sarasota County IFAS Extension and installed at the homes. Other water conservation measures included the use of Water Sense lavatory faucets, shower heads and dual flush toilets.

The Forked Creek duplex is one of the most affordable,
efficient, durable and sustainable projects ever built by the Habitat affiliate.

**Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County** was also recognized this year by the Florida Green Building Coalition for producing six of the highest scoring FGBC certified homes in the state in 2012.

**Member Spotlight: Franz Appointed to Building Commission**

FGBC Board member Tom Franz has been appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Building Commission (FBC). Franz is president of Tom Franz Construction Services, LLC in Melbourne, Vice-Chair of the Florida Home Builders Association Green Building and Remodelers councils, and a past president of the Home Builders & Contractors Association of Brevard County. Franz joins another FGBC Board member, Drew Smith of Two Trails, Inc. in Sarasota, on the FBC.

**Wrenn Joins KBHome Central Florida**

Christopher Wrenn, AICP, LEED GA recently joined KBHome Central Florida in Orlando as Forward Planner. He has a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Florida.

Wrenn also serves as chair of the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) Land Development Standard Committee and has evaluated several projects for certification under the FGBC Green Land Development Standard.

Chris was formerly the Director-Orlando Region with The Pizzuti Companies.

**Eight Earn the Florida Green Building Coalition Certified Green Professional Designation**
Congratulations to the newest recipients of the FGBC Certified Green Professional designation:

**Eileen Burke**  
Florida Home Partnership  
Ruskin, FL

**Julia Galofre**  
Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners  
Port Charlotte, FL

**Dean Kauthen**  
Centria  
Sarasota, FL

**Patrick Kidd**  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
Marco Island, FL

**Cynthia McRee**  
Duke Energy  
New Port Richey, FL

**Michael Sollitto**  
Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Inc  
Venice, FL

**Hal Stiles**  
Miami-Dade County  
North Miami, FL
Interested in hosting the course in your area? Email info@FloridaGreenBuilding.org to get started.

Hurricane Shutter Design for Florida Published

APA has recently updated two publications offering hurricane shutter design details. Each provides two basic alternatives for hurricane shutters and a collection of five different designs with recommendations for window and door openings in masonry and wood-frame buildings. The plans include illustrations, materials lists, and step-by-step instructions.

Hurricane Shutter Design Considerations for Florida, Form T460, is region-specific and provides recommendations based on requirements from the 2010 Florida Building Code-Residential (FBC-R) and 2010 Florida Building Code-Building (FBC-B). This 22-page publication is available as a free downloadable PDF. Form T460.

Advertising Sales Position Available at FGB

FGB is looking for a proven sales professional to spearhead advertising sales for Florida Green Building magazine. The magazine will be produced quarterly and distributed statewide to builders, architects, engineers, green consultants, energy raters, FGB members, and other targeted green building audiences. Compensation will be commission based. Resumes should be sent via email to: info@FloridaGreenBuilding.org

FGB Welcomes New Members & Certifying Agents

New Members:
- Regina Booker, Pinellas County Housing Authority, Largo, FL
  FGB Sponsor: Omar Arce
- Scott Culp, CPG Construction, Winter Park, FL
  FGB Sponsor: Gary Carmack
- Cammie Donaldson, Florida Association of Native Nurseries, Melbourne, FL
- David Dowdy, Landmark Homes, Tallahassee, FL
  FGB Sponsor: Randy Conn
- Barry Faske, Faske Enterprises, Inc., Hollywood, FL
  FGB Sponsor: Suzanne Cook
- Marc Gauthier, Atlantic Housing Partners, Winter Park, FL
  FGB Sponsor: Gary Carmack
- Harry Hollub, Hollub Homes, Miami, FL
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. [More]

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cook, CAE
FGBC Executive Director