PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: There's Much to Be Thankful For

Thanksgiving - what a joyous time of year. It's the beginning of the holiday season when we all think of the things for which we are grateful - our family, friends, country, careers...the list can go on and on.

Many families have traditions where each person at the table names all the things they have to be thankful for.

I am lucky and honored to be able to serve as President of this fine organization. Many organizations throughout the state have a strong commitment to protecting the environment, but few have as much of an impact as the Florida Green Building Coalition.

Recently, FGBC surveyed its members to gauge if our current efforts and programs were providing value. When asked why they were members of FGBC, 45% stated it was "just because they believe in the mission of FGBC and support its efforts." Another 27% reported being members because "being affiliated with FGBC added credibility to their businesses." I am so thankful for each and every one of these supporters.

Our certification programs are becoming more widely adopted. In fact, we just flew past our 2,059 certified homes for the year, bringing our cumulative total to 8,779. Our commercial and high-rise certification...
programs include over 15,483,553 square feet of registered projects. Just think of the huge impact this has in making Florida buildings healthier for the occupants, more efficient and less costly to operate for the owners, and more profitable for investors, all while also managing resources more responsibly and protecting Florida's natural environments. That's a huge, positive impact on our state. To all of our program participants, I am so thankful for your support of our certification standards.

We would never have accomplished so much without the dedication and commitment of our Board of Directors, committee chairs, and member volunteers. To you, I am truly thankful.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,

Nate Ritter
FGBC President

Tampa, Palm Bay & Tamarac Earn Florida Green Local Government 5-Year Recertification

The Florida Green Building Coalition has recertified the cities of Tampa, Tamarac and Palm Bay as Florida Green Local Governments after each successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program.

The criteria included evaluations of energy and water usage, air quality, health issues, land use, recycling and waste disposal, maintenance policies, educational programs, purchasing practices, regulatory policies, and many others.

From there teams used FGBC's program tools to identify methods to improve the sustainability of their business practices and operations.

Through these efforts, there were reductions in operating costs and capital outlays, improvements in departmental communication, cooperation, and risk and asset management, a wealth of environmental benefits - including measureable CO2 reductions, and identification of programs that will improve community involvement and enhance sustainability throughout each community.

Congratulations to Tampa, Tamarac & Palm Bay for their sustainability achievements. When communities like these commit to environmental goals, the entire state of Florida benefits.
efficiency requirements are among the new requirements to further reduce buildings' environmental impacts in the 2014 version of the green building standard from ASHRAE.


Major changes include:

- **Energy:** Significant updates are included to reflect the publication of Standard 90.1-2013, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, including revised building envelope provisions. Fenestration orientation requirements were updated based on new research, as well as changes and updates made to equipment efficiency tables, EnergyStar references and continuous air-barrier requirements.
- **Energy Performance, Carbon Dioxide Emissions, and Renewables:** Changes and clarifications are included to reflect changes to Standard 90.1. Carbon dioxide emission factors for different energy sources are updated.
- **Indoor Environmental Quality:** Lighting quality is added to the scope of this section, and requirements are added for lighting controls in specific space types. Requirements for air sealing of filtration and air-cleaning equipment are clarified, and new requirements for pre-occupancy ventilation and building envelope moisture management are added.
- **Site Sustainability:** All site requirements are now mandatory, with prescriptive and performance options moved to the mandatory requirements. Requirements for stormwater management are enhanced, and new requirements added for bicycle parking and for preferred parking for low-emission, hybrid and electric vehicles. New requirements are added for predesign assessment of native and invasive plants.
- **Water:** More stringent water use requirements are included for toilets, clothes washers, dishwashers and green roofs.
- **Building Impacts on the Atmosphere, Materials, and Resources:** Requirements are updated for areas to store and collect recyclables, including batteries and electronics. Requirements also are updated for construction waste management and for life-cycle assessment. New requirements are added for multiple-attribute product declaration or certification and for maximum mercury content levels of certain types of electric lamps.
• **Construction and Plans for Operation:** Requirements related to environmental impacts associated with idling construction vehicles are updated. New requirements are added to reduce the entry of airborne contaminants associated with construction areas.

Construction of green buildings rose to 325 million square meters of new floor space in 2013, representing a $260 billion market, according to an October report by Lux Research. [More]

**UL Survey Reveals How Consumers Perceive the Value of Green Claims**

What do consumers really value when it comes to home improvement products? In a study conducted for Underwriters Laboratory-Environments (UL), consumers were asked to select any green claim or certification that would persuade them to pay 10% more. [Full Report]

Certifications rose to the top of the list. Eight of the top 10 claims that consumers thought were worth a price premium were certified claims. Legitimate but uncertified claims didn't have much traction. Willingness to pay 10% more was most influenced by claims about air quality/VOCs/chemical exposure

**Sign the ARCSA Rainwater Harvesting Petition**

The American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) - an FGBG partner - has petitioned the White House to support rainwater harvesting through legislation or executive order. Help the cause by signing the ARCSA petition today! [Sign the Petition]

**Water Conservation Cost-Share Funding Offered by SJRWMD**

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) will accept applications from January 5 to March 13, 2015, for cost-share funding for water conservation and construction projects that will contribute to any of the following:

- Water conservation
- Alternative water supply development
- Water quality/nutrient-loading reduction
- Water resource development
Qualified water conservation projects include:

- Increasing irrigation efficiency for both crops and landscapes, including soil moisture sensors, rain sensors and irrigation head upgrades
- Automating the tracking of customer water use by water utilities to enhance water conservation measures and educate water users about their water use and conservation measures and benefits
- Installation of high-efficiency indoor plumbing retrofits, automatic line flushing devices or hydrant flushing devices, and pre-rinse spray valves

The District encourages industrial, commercial, agricultural, and institutional water users, as well as homeowner and condominium associations, to apply for funding.

The District anticipates making cost-share funding available in its fiscal year 2015-2016 budget that begins Oct. 1, 2015, subject to Governing Board approval.

Application instructions, guidelines, form, evaluation process and a contract template will be available on the District's website after Dec. 15, 2014. Complete applications must be emailed between Jan. 5, 2015, and 5 p.m. on March 13, 2015, to funding@sjrwmd.com.

The District will host public workshops to describe the application process, program requirements and answer questions.

- Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, at 10 a.m., District Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka
- Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, at 10 a.m., Maitland Service Center, 601 South Lake Destiny Road, Suite 200, Maitland
- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, 10 a.m., Jacksonville Service Center, 7775 Baymeadows Way, Suite 102, Jacksonville
- Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., Palm Bay Service Center, 525 Community College Parkway, S.E., Palm Bay

More information is available at floridaswater.com/funding