Despite Gov. Scott’s Turning A Blind Eye
DOH Takes on Climate Change Assessment

The Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) Program at the Florida Department of Health (DOH) is working to improve the ability of the public health sector to respond to health effects related to climate variability. This will be done by incorporating the best available climate science into routine public health practice. In order to achieve this goal, the BRACE Program is analyzing the current and projected future impacts of climate on health. The program will be developing a Florida climate and health adaptation plan.

Priority climate hazards for the BRACE Program include hurricanes and other storms, sea level rise, flooding, drought, extreme heat, and wildland fires. As part of BRACE Step 1, the program is developing a climate and health profile that will identify and describe key risk factors and health impacts anticipated in Florida. The program is also conducting a formal vulnerability assessment to quantify and map the geographic distribution of weather-related risk factors and vulnerable populations. [More] [CDCs Climate-Ready States & Cities Initiative]

Florida Transportation Plan Forums Scheduled for Month of February

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is updating the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan. Five Transportation Visioning Regional Forums are scheduled for February. The dates and locations are:

- February 2, 2015 in Sebring
- February 3, 2015 in Tampa
- February 5, 2015 in Delray Beach
February 11, 2015 in Jacksonville
February 12, 2015 in Fort Walton Beach

FDOT encourages you to sign up in advance but walk-ins are welcome. Florida's Transportation Visioning Regional Forums provide an opportunity for transportation partners and the public to provide their thoughts about the state's transportation system of the future and to suggest bold ideas to achieve this future. Input is needed to identify and address transportation at all levels - statewide, regional, and local. [More] [2060 Florida Transportation Plan]

Gainesville Axes Bike Lanes

As Gainesville returns bike lanes to cars, the decision reflects a broader debate over removing traffic lanes.

In mid-2013, a mile-long stretch of 8th Avenue in Gainesville went on a road diet. Four vehicle lanes became two for cars and two for cyclists. Pedestrians on adjacent sidewalks gained a bit more separation from moving traffic. A painted median reserved road space for a pleasantly landscaped version to come.

The hope was that the design trial would convince local officials to adopt a permanent two-lane multimodal street. Those hopes ended in December 2014.

After a lengthy public hearing, the city commission voted 4-to-3 to reverse the road diet and revert 8th Avenue to its original form. That meant re-striping for four car lanes, nudging cyclists back onto the sidewalks, and reducing the median to a mere double yellow line. Public works crews finished the job last weekend. [Read the Argument]

PACE Loan Programs Stalled in Broward, Palm Beach Counties

Legal challenges are delaying expansion of the Property Assessed Clean Energy program known as PACE in Broward and Palm Beach counties.

County officials say it could take until summer - or longer - for decisions in PACE cases pending before the Florida Supreme Court, and PACE providers would
need months more to set up plans afterward.

PACE lets property owners take out loans, sometimes for 20-year terms, to finance certain energy-saving improvements and then pay back the loans together with property taxes. In some cases, the loans pay for themselves, as savings on electric bills are big enough to cover the loan payments.

Some areas in Miami-Dade County already allow PACE financing, and the program is gaining momentum there. More than $7 million in PACE projects for homes and businesses have been financed in Miami-Dade since mid-2013, said Joseph Spector, vice president of operations at Ygrene Energy Fund Florida, which runs the "Clean Energy Green Corridor PACE District" that spans 15 cities and towns there.

Five places in Miami-Dade have signed up for PACE since August; North Bay Village, Miami Lakes, El Portal, Miami Springs and Key Biscayne, even with Florida Supreme Court cases pending, Spector said.

Broward is more cautious, however, waiting for court rulings before launching its larger countywide program. More than a year ago, the county chose two companies to offer its PACE program, Ygrene and EcoCity Partners, and both remain on standby. [More]

Homebuyers Willing to Pay More for Solar; Appraisal Institute Finally Takes Notice

Homebuyers are willing to pay more for homes with host-owned solar photovoltaic energy systems, according to a report released Jan. 13 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The study focuses only on homes with host-owned PV systems, as opposed to those with leased PV systems. Take-a-ways include:

- Home buyers consistently have been willing to pay more for a property with PV
- Average market premiums are about $4/W or $15,000 for an average-sized 3.6-kW PV system
- PV premiums remained consistent even as PV gross costs decreased dramatically
- Net cost, rather than gross cost, may be the more dominant market signal
• PV premiums are robust to housing market conditions.

Green buildings cost less to operate and have a smaller carbon footprint, according to the US General Services Administration.

Buildings.com reports on a post-occupancy evaluation study of 22 green federal buildings conducted by GSA and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The study compared one year of operating data and surveys of green building occupants, compared to the national average of commercial buildings. It found green government buildings:

• Cost 19 percent less to maintain
• Use 25 percent less energy and water
• Emit 36 percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions
• Have a 27 percent higher rate of occupant satisfaction

Another study released last month by the Center for Resource Efficient Communities at UC Berkeley found certified commercial green buildings on average cut greenhouse gas emissions from water consumption by 50 percent, reduced solid waste management-related GHG emissions by 48 percent and lowered transportation-related GHG emissions by 5 percent, when compared to their traditional California counterparts.

We’ve heard about kinetic energy dance floors, train stations, and even speed bumps, but the technology has barely penetrated the commercial market, especially when compared to solar power. That could all be about to change.

The world’s first ever soccer field with lights powered by kinetic energy tiles just got its launch in Rio de Janeiro and a kinetic energy mobile device...
charging station was recently installed on the campus of Webster University in St. Louis.

At a cost of about $20,000, the charging station at Webster doesn’t exactly pay for itself in terms of the kinetic-sourced electricity it generates, but a load of other value-added features has been piggybacked onto the station. Most noticeable is the solar panel that doubles as a shade and weather protector (for the record, the kinetic energy soccer field also has solar panels for night lighting), but that’s just for starters.

The customized station includes 10 ports for different cables, cell phones and tablets, two USB ports, and two wireless charging pads. It also includes free Wi-Fi and an emergency phone link to the campus security department.

Paved surfaces and floors are just a couple of opportunities for on-site kinetic energy harvesting. There are also devices in the works to harvest energy from revolving doors, elevators, and escalators. [More]

**Green Building Products Market**

**To Reach $235 Billion by 2019**

The green building materials market, valued $106.32 billion in 2012, is expected to reach $234.77 billion by 2019 at a CAGR of 12.5 percent during the 2013-2019 forecast period, according to a Transparency Market Research report.

*Green Building Materials Market - Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends and Forecast 2013 - 2019* says the global green building materials market is driven by factors such as a positive effect of green building on human health, government support, shift towards green building, and rising demand from construction industry.

The market, according to the application types, is segmented into framing, roofing, insulation, interior finishing, exterior siding, and others. Insulation application-segment was estimated as the largest segment with 21 percent of the total market share in 2012.

Green buildings cost less to operate and have a
smaller carbon footprint, according to the US General Services Administration. [More] [Report]

Which HVAC Calculation to Use: Design, Extreme, or Part Load?

The HVAC design world isn't as simple as it used to be back when you could use rules of thumb. Improper load design can cause many problems, including growing mold in a humid climate like Florida. So when sizing an HVAC system, do you base the size on the design load, the extreme load, or the part load? That choice has repercussions. As houses get more airtight and better insulated, proper sizing becomes more important. So how do you come up with the best option? [More]

Lakewood Ranch Maintains National Stature As Top-Selling Master Planned Community

Lakewood Ranch has retained its national rating as one of the top-selling master-planned communities in the United States. According to two national surveys, Lakewood Ranch ranked Nos. 10 and No. 11, respectively, for strong home sales in 2014 and came in third in Florida behind The Villages in Ocala and Nocatee in Jacksonville.

Most master-planned communities sold fewer homes in 2014 than 2013. National Housing consultant RCLCO, which ranked Lakewood Ranch 10th in residential sales, reported sales among the 20 top nationally ranked communities, fell 8 percent in 2014, reaching a total of 13,006 homes.

Neal Communities, one of the largest Lakewood Ranch homebuilders, said the developer SMR protected its reputation by having high standards for builders, such as requiring that all homes must be certified to the Florida Green Building Coalition "Florida Green" standard, which returned high-quality products.

The favorable ranking has changed the community landscape, according to Peter Mason, sales manager for Lee Wetherington Homes, a local builder who developed the first community in Lakewood Ranch, Summerfield and many homes in Central Park. [More]

JOB OPPORTUNITIES:
SunShot Systems

Florida Facility Managers Assn Job Board
City of Sunrise Internship opportunity
FGB Welcomes New Members
Anne Graffy (Rejoin) Keller Williams New Port Richey
Rosie Branciforte Everglades University Maitland
Jovita Woodrich GIBB Chipley Village, Inc Tallahassee
Edmundo Largaespada Steven Feller P.E., PL Fort Lauderdale
Integration Technology Managers

The SunShot Initiative is hiring for two technology managers in the Systems Integration subprogram. The focus of this SunShot initiative is to reduce the cost of electricity from solar by 75%, making it competitive with conventional forms of generation by the end of the decade. These administrators will manage the funding process from developing new programs to overseeing execution of awarded projects. [More]

In the coming weeks, the SunShot Initiative intends to issue a $45 million funding opportunity to bring new solar technologies to market and improve solar manufacturing. [More]