**Project Spotlight - Progresso Point**

**First FGBC Certified High-Rise Building**

Progresso Point is the first building certified under the Florida Green Building Coalition's Green High-Rise Residential Designation. It is a 76-unit affordable housing project of the Broward County Housing Authority and the Reliance Housing Foundation.

The project recycled more than 75 percent of its construction and demolition waste. Units are 50 percent more efficient than Florida Building Code requires, achieved through the incorporation of Energy Star appliances, dual flush toilets, tankless water heaters, programmable thermostats, and Energy Star qualified lighting in all open and common areas. Other green features include minimizing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) through the proper selection of materials and finishes throughout, and use of drought tolerant landscaping that reduces use of potable water for irrigation by more than 75%.

**International Green Construction Code Released**

The 2012 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) was released at the end of March after several years of development. The IgCC is not a rating system, nor is it intended to replace them. It is a code that is intended to be adopted by states and local jurisdictions on a mandatory basis. Unlike most rating systems, the IgCC primarily consists of minimum mandatory requirements, just as other I-Codes. However, it allows jurisdictions to customize the code to address 20 additional environmental criteria and allows the jurisdiction to set higher minimum levels of performance.

The IgCC is applicable to all buildings, both new and existing, except: IRC buildings, R-3 occupancies, and R-2 and R-4 occupancies four stories or less in height. It addresses conservation of natural resources, materials, energy, water, and indoor environmental quality.
The code acts as an overlay to the existing set of International Codes, including provisions of the International Energy Conservation Code and ICC-700, the National Green Building Standard, and incorporates ASHRAE Standard 189.1 as an alternate path to compliance.

It is intended to be enforced primarily by building officials. [IqCC Overview]

**Report Summarizes Florida Energy Bill Impacts**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services released today the "Impact of Proposed Energy Tax Legislation for Florida," an independent economic analysis of Florida's Energy Bill, HB 7117.

Based on a review of the legislative measures, particularly the Renewable Energy Technologies Sales Tax Exemption, the Renewable Energy Technologies Investment Corporate Income Tax Credit and the Renewable Energy Production Corporate Income Tax Credit, the analysis finds that the bill will generate $143.5 million in new tax revenue and create more than 3,000 jobs for Floridians.

The report's findings also reveal the bill's incentives will:

- Account for nearly $400 million of GDP for Florida by 2017
- Put an additional $874 million in the pockets of Floridians over the five-year implementation period
- Support as many as 3,850 jobs in all sectors of the Florida economy by 2017
- Generate an additional $28.7 million in new tax revenue annually for the Florida Treasury over the five-year implementation period.

The revenues generated by the incentives are projected to break even and exceed the costs by FY 2013-14 [Report]

**Green Homes Market Expected to Reach $87-114 Billion by 2016**

A new McGraw-Hill construction study reports good news for the green residential building sector. Currently comprising 17 percent of the overall residential construction market in 2011, green homes are expected to grow to between 29 percent and 38 percent of the market by 2016, or from $17 billion in 2011 to $87-$114 billion in 2016. Regions seeing higher than average growth include the West Coast followed by the Midwest's northern region, west of Mississippi and New England.

"The results of our study show that despite the drastic downturn in housing starts since 2008, green has grown significantly as a share of activity-indicating that the green market is becoming an important part of our overall economic
According to the study, construction industry professionals report an even steeper increase in green home remodeling; 34 percent of remodelers expect to be doing mostly green work by 2016, a 150 percent increase over 2011 activity levels. Many home builders have shifted to the remodeling market due to the drastic drop in new home construction. In fact, 62 percent of the builders who do both new and remodeling work verified that the economy has increased their renovation work.

Several factors are driving the green homes market, with "higher quality" and "increases in energy costs" topping the list, indicating that today's green homebuyer is not just a green consumer. Buyers recognize that green homes have lower bills due to higher building performance. The reported costs of building a green home have also gone down significantly. Builders report that the cost to go green is now 7 percent, as compared to 10 percent in 2008.

**Energy Efficiency Funding Opportunity**

**$9 Million Available to Small Businesses**

*For advancement of energy efficiency and renewables*

The US Department of Energy (DOE) just announced up to $9 million available this year to fund approximately 50 small businesses to advance innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. This initiative will help small businesses with promising ideas that could improve manufacturing processes, boost the efficiency of buildings, reduce reliance on oil, and generate electricity from renewable sources to bring new clean energy solutions to market faster. The funding opportunity includes eight broad topics and 30 subtopics in areas including advanced manufacturing, energy-efficient buildings, biomass, hydrogen and fuel cells, solar energy, and wind and water power technologies.
10 a.m.

**Board of Directors**
2nd Wednesday-monthly
3 p.m.

2 p.m. (New Time)

**Commercial**
1st Tuesday-monthly
3 p.m.

3 p.m.

**Education**
1st Thursday-monthly
2 p.m.

2 p.m.

**GreenTrends**
4th Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m. (New Time)

3 p.m.

**Hi-Rise Residential**
3rd Tuesday-monthly
11 a.m.

2 p.m.

**Homes**
2nd Tuesday-monthly
2 p.m.

2 p.m.

**Land Development**
4th Wednesday-monthly
4 p.m.

3 p.m.

**Local Government**
1st Tuesday-monthly
10:30 a.m.

3 p.m.

**Membership Committee**
3rd Thursday-monthly
4 p.m. (New Time)

3 p.m.

**Programs & Promotions**
3rd Thursday-monthly
4 p.m. (New Time)

3 p.m.

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**DOE Funding Programs**

DOE has wide range of funding programs available for renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.

Check out these websites for eligibility and details:

[Loan Programs](#)

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**DOE has wide range of funding programs available for renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or wind.**

**Chiles Academy**

Will feature green living activities, live music, entertainment, kid’s activities, food for purchase and free sampling, and information.

**Sunday, April 22, 2012 12 pm - 8 pm**

**Deland**

**Green Affair**

Downtown, West Indiana Ave

**Saturday, April 14, 2012 10 am - 2 pm**

**Delray Beach**

**Open Grass Earth Day Weekend in Delray**

Kevro's Art Bar

Open Grass Earth day Weekend at Kevro’s Art Bar in Beautiful Downtown Delray Beach, Fl, 3 days of peace, music and art featuring some of the best local artists from South Florida as well as some of the most loved Jam bands from the Area.

**Friday, April 20, 2012 - Sunday, April 22, 2012 - 4:15 am - 11:00 pm**

**Fort Lauderdale**

**Earth Day Workshops**

Marando Farms

**Saturday, April 21, 2012 10 am - 2 pm**

**Jacksonville**

**Annual Earth Day & Ecology Fair**

The Landing

**Saturday, April 21, 2012 10 am - 4 pm**

**Lower Florida Keys**

**Earth Day Celebration**

Bahia Honda State Park

**Saturday, April 14, 2012**

**Miami**

**Earth Day Celebration**

Pinecrest Gardens

**Sunday, April 15, 2012 10 am - 4 pm**

**Naples**

**Earth Day**

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

1450 Merrihue Drive, Naples

The FREE Earth Day Festival at the is an area tradition! FREE t-shirts to the first 50 guests! New entrance from Goodlette-Frank Road, Smith Preserve Way, open to foot traffic only.

Kids’ Carnival, Family Programs, Environmental Exhibits, Food, Crafts, Entertainment. Fast, convenient and free off-site parking available at Colonial Square Office Park and Lake Park Elementary School. No on-site parking available at the Conservancy Nature Center due to continuing renovations.

**Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
Geothermal

Solar

Wind & Water

DOE Funding Announcements
[More]

DOE Solar Funding
Due 5-29-12
[More]

DOE Announces $5.2 Million for Improved Building Efficiency Technologies
[More]

North Palm Beach
Ninth Annual TurtleFest
Loggerhead Marinelife Center and Loggerhead Park in Juno Beach
Saturday, April 21, 2012 10am - 6 pm

Orlando
Central Florida Earth Day 2012
Lake Eola Park
Saturday, April 21, 2012

Pensacola
Earth Day Pensacola
Bayview Park
Saturday, April 21, 2012 10 am - 5 pm

Sarasota
EcoFest
Five Points Park area
Join local vendors and enjoy entertainment and educational speakers in learning how to be healthy, save money and help save the planet.
Saturday, April 21, 2012 8 am - 4 pm

Sebastian
Earth Day Celebration
In addition to a "Hook Kids on Fishing" event, there will be environmental and wildlife exhibits, Florida native plant sales, activities for children, food and beverages, live music and eco-tips of all kinds. At Riverview Park. Call 772-589-3201
Saturday, April 21, 2012 10 am - 4 pm

St. Petersburg
Green Thumb Festival
Walter Fuller Park
Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29, 2012 9 am - 4 pm

Tallahassee
Earth Day in the Park
Park Avenue Chain of Parks, Downtown
Sunday, April 22, 2012 1 pm - 5 pm
[More Events]

Tampa
Earth Day: Go Native
University of South Florida Botanical Gardens
This year's festival will feature exhibitors, demonstrations, arts and crafts, community groups, live music, food, and children's activities—all aimed to help Tampa Bay's residents create a healthy and sustainable lifestyle. Our theme this year, "go native," is intended to promote the use of native plants in the urban landscape. Businesses will demonstrate new products that will focus on ways to "go green," and
nonprofit organizations will be on site to provide helpful information. This annual event typically attracts several thousands of participants.
Saturday, April 21, 2012 10 am - 5 pm

**Sunrise**

**City of Sunrise Earth Day Festival**
Sawgrass Sanctuary
237 North New River Circle
Come celebrate green living with a free, family-friendly festival. Join us at Sawgrass Sanctuary for a day of outdoor fun sponsored by the City of Sunrise Utilities Department and All Service Refuse. The City's fourth annual Earth Day celebration will feature live music; children's activities including bounce houses, face painting, and arts and crafts; a farmers' market; handcrafted goods; food and beverage vendors; and representatives from eco-conscious organizations.
Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**West Palm Beach**

**Earth Day Festival**
Okeeheelee Nature Center
The Okeeheelee Nature Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, encourages appreciation for our natural environment through education and demonstration as well as inspiring individuals to become personally involved in the conservation of South Florida's natural resources. The Nature Center features interactive and live exhibits and many free and low-cost education tours and programs.
Saturday, April 21, 2012 9:00 am - 3:00 pm