

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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Green homes in San Jose, California sell fast

San Jose Mercury News - Mar 11

In a fragile housing market where nationwide sales of new homes fell to a 13-year low in January, the sale of new "green homes" by San Jose-based Pinn Brothers Fine Homes, is taking off. Seven out of nine new green homes sold quickly at Pinn Brothers' Orchard Heights development. These 3,600-square-foot or larger green homes starting at around \$1 million. Each home meets the LEED standard for new homes. San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, who offered up a green vision for the city last fall, said his staff has started counting solar roofs in San Jose, and that fewer than 500 are now in place. His goal is 100,000 solar roofs in San Jose over the next 10 years.

Green Building Focus

2nd Annual Allen Matkins/CTG Green Building Survey: Green Goes from Trend to Mainstream

In November and December 2007, more than 1,200 construction and design professionals, including members of the U.S. Green Building Council and attendees of the 2007 Construction SuperConference, participated in a survey conducted by Allen Matkins and CTG and published by Green Building Insider. The results of this Second Annual Green Building Survey and the follow-up interviews support the ever-increasing trend towards LEED, green and sustainable building efforts.

During the survey and interview process, a number of design and construction organizations shared that they were striving for "greener" internal and external processes—internally by improving their own work environments and reducing their own carbon footprints and externally by increasing the number of LEED, green and sustainable projects that they design or construct.

Green buildings can cut emissions by 25%, according to report

Reuters - Mar 14

Applying "green" building standards to new construction could cut carbon dioxide emissions by 25 percent, or 1.7 billion tons, across North America over the next 22 years, an environmental experts' report claims. The expert panel reporting to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, set up under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), says moving quickly to ensure the uptake of readily available energy-efficiency measures in all new buildings could secure prompt, cheap and rapid cuts in emissions in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The California Energy Commission adopts recommendations to reduce greenhouse gases

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Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 230 attorneys practicing out of seven offices in California. The firm's broad based areas of focus include construction, corporate, real estate, project finance, business litigation, taxation, land use, environmental, bankruptcy and creditors' rights, and employment and labor law. [More...](#)



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California Energy Commission - Mar 12

The California Energy Commission recently adopted a report to develop comprehensive regulatory strategies to meet AB 32 greenhouse gas reduction goals. The "Interim Opinion on Greenhouse Strategies" was prepared jointly by the Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The Opinion makes recommendations to the California Air Resources Board (ARB) for a regulatory structure that includes a combination of market and program approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity and natural gas sectors. The foundation of this proposed regulatory framework is based on the state's "loading order" which puts energy efficiency as the top priority, followed by renewable energy investment.

Presidential campaigns tackle green building policy

Costar.com - Mar 13

The three remaining presidential candidates are discussing green building funds and cap-and-trade concepts. According to this article, the presidential hopefuls argue that recession can be countered by efforts to improve the environment. As each campaign continues to sharpen its rhetoric, energy and environmental policies are emerging as drivers for economic stimulus. Proposed reforms focus on commercial real estate, a \$5 trillion industry in the United States that accounts for approximately 30 percent of the total U.S. carbon emissions, according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

British Columbia introduces bill to "green" provincial building practices

The Vancouver Sun - Mar 12

British Columbia's provincial government took a step toward modernizing and greening provincial building practices with an update of some overarching legislation. The government's Bill-10 makes changes to its Local Government Act, Community Charter, Vancouver Charter, Architects Act and Engineers and Geoscientists Act. Among the new initiatives in the bill is a provision allowing the provincial minister responsible for housing to designate an official to make binding interpretations of the provincial building code. M.J. Whitemarsh, CEO of the Canadian Homebuilders Association in B.C., said Bill-10 will give the industry some certainty around what it is required to meet new standards.

LEED "certifiable" vs. LEED certified

Greener Buildings - Mar 12

In Boston, a recently adopted code requires all new construction over 50,000 square feet to be LEED "certifiable." In 2004, Mayor Thomas Menino and the Boston Redevelopment Agency formed a Green Building Task Force to study how green building practices may be encouraged in the City of Boston. After a 12-month study, the task force recommended a set of "initiatives," implemented in January 2007 requiring private buildings over 50,000 square feet in Boston be designed and planned to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification. However, actual certification is not mandated. Some view this initiative as an attempt to appear environmentally sustainable.

San Diego State University offers green building

education online

Greener Buildings - Mar 17

San Diego State University's College of Extended Studies has developed an online certificate program for green building construction and design. The program is designed for anyone in the construction industry, from those with heavy experience to those with a "beginner's" interest. Topics include an overview of sustainable construction and the USGBC's LEED program.

Notable green building projects...

[Green efforts escalating at NYC Ground Zero, all to pursue LEED Gold rating](#)

The New York Building Congress recently held a forum to move forward with redevelopment efforts at the World Trade Center site. An overview of the \$20 billion project was discussed, and is still on track for full occupancy in 2012. The World Trade Center Design Studio will be on the 10th floor of LEED Gold 7 WTC, where 120 design team members have been working for the past 18 months. All of Mr. Silverstein's towers at Ground Zero, including the Freedom Tower, will pursue a LEED Gold rating from USGBC.

[Port of Long Beach to build \\$218 million "Green" headquarters](#)

The Port of Long Beach, California, is making plans to build a new "green" headquarters building. The nine-story, \$218 million structure would replace its current cramped headquarters, which was built nearly five decades ago. The new building will include a variety of environmental features, including a design that uses natural light to cut energy usage, which the port says will qualify it for environmental certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

[Crescent Resources and Manulife Financial to build \\$175 million LEED-designed office building in Atlanta](#)

Crescent Resources, LLC, in a financial joint venture with Manulife Financial, has begun construction of Phipps Tower, a LEED-designed 20-story office building. The 486,000 square-foot, \$175 million office tower will be linked to the prestigious Phipps Plaza mixed-use development.