

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

Allen Matkins
attorneys at law

February 26, 2009

[Green Building Survey](#) [Allen Matkins/CTG/Green Building Insider](#)

GlobeSt.com - Feb 25

The Annual Allen Matkins/CTG/Green Building Insider Green Building Survey is the lead story in Wednesday's *GlobeStreet.com*. The survey indicates that 93.4 percent of 900 survey participants agree that it is worth the time and effort to build green. However, despite this overwhelming endorsement of green construction, only 66.2 percent (down from 76 percent in the 2007 survey) agreed that it was worth obtaining official LEED certification from the USGBC.

There may be several potential reasons for these survey results: (1) the current recession could have colored the results wherein some respondents may be hesitant to incur fees for services that are not directly associated with traditional bricks and mortar construction costs; (2) the results could reflect increased competition from other certification schemes since some newly enacted green building regulations in various jurisdictions do not specify a specific green certification process; and (3) some of these new laws and regulations are focused on carbon footprints and greenhouse gasses, which were not directly addressed by the LEED certification process until 2009.

A copy of the full survey and Allen Matkins' analysis is available [here](#).

Green Building Focus

[Green Buildings Forecasts to 2015'](#)

PR Inside - Feb 20

The "Global Green Buildings Market Analysis & Forecasts to 2015" produced by [companiesandmarkets.com](#) provides, among other things: (i) detailed analyses and forecasts of the global energy efficient building technologies market; (ii) analyses and forecasts of the key industry metrics related to sustainable building construction; (iii) information related to available and upcoming green building technologies; and (iv) detailed profiles of the major green building companies in the world.

[Analyst: Solar panel prices may fall by 40%](#)

Business Green - Feb 23

Industry analyst, [New Energy Finance](#), is predicting solar module prices could fall by between 30 and 40% as a result of recent investments globally to increase production of silicon. Polysilicon prices hit a peak of \$400 per kilogram last summer, but as investments to increase capacity have come online, prices have fallen to between \$30 and \$40 per kilogram and experts agree they are likely to continue dropping.

[30% tax credit for small wind turbines](#)

Green Building Elements - Feb 19

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes an uncapped 30% tax credit for the installation of small wind turbines, such as [Windspire](#), a

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About Allen Matkins
Allen Matkins Leck Gamble
Mallory & Natsis LLP,
founded in 1977, is a

residential and commercial wind power appliance. The tax credit, previously capped at \$4,000, gives all American taxpayers credit based on the total installed cost of an installation of one or more wind turbines. Manufactured entirely in the United States by Mariah Power, Windspire is a 30-foot tall, propeller-free, vertical-axis wind turbine designed for harnessing wind power in urban, suburban and rural locations.

Tax credits incentivize 'green' homes

NAHB - Feb 18

Federal programs expanded tax credits for 2009 and 2010 for energy-efficient home improvements. The federal programs extend and enlarge tax credits previously passed by George W. Bush. These modifications to the Internal Revenue Code section 25C tax credit will make green and sustainable home upgrades even more affordable by increasing both the maximum amount of such tax credit that may be taken by a taxpayer as well as the list of home improvements for which such taxpayer may take such tax credit. Homeowners could be rewarded for installing energy-efficient windows, doors, roofing and insulation as well as furnaces, air conditioners and heat pumps.

Breakdown of stimulus package green building funds

BuildingGreen.com - Feb 20

Of the \$787 billion included in the economic stimulus package signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, just under \$79 billion will go to renewable energy, energy-efficiency and green transportation projects. Also funds will be provided for energy efficient improvements for federal buildings, tax credits for renewable energy projects, and an expansion of the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Stimulus Package: Green Building

USGBC - Feb 25

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a/k/a the "Stimulus Package", includes billions in funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency and other energy related programs as well as additional billions in tax incentives for renewable energy and efficiency measures. Although the Stimulus Package contains some funding for "dirty industries", such as coal and nuclear, the net impact allows the United States to address some of their more pressing energy issues while dramatically increasing the amount of "green jobs" available in the United States.

15 California cities adopt green building standards

Mercury News - Feb 22

Santa Clara County's 15 cities have agreed to a baseline of green building policies, including - for most - a goal of meeting the LEED Silver standard for new or renovated public buildings. A few cities, including San Jose, have set some minimums for private construction as well, and the rest are studying the issue. Many believe these policies will reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and help communities in immediate ways, like stretching limited water supply. Also, the 2% average premium for a green building can save 20% of operating costs over its lifetime.

New green-building education center

Santa Rosa Press Democrat - Feb 16

The North Coast Builders Exchange plans to open a green-building education center in the group's Santa Rosa offices by mid-summer. The center will have several booths that show how green-building concepts are interconnected, says Warren Brown, the chairman of the exchange's Green Building Committee. Categories for the booths are energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality, low-water landscaping, carbon footprint reduction and "smart" land-use planning. The focus would be on education, rather than promoting products.

Santa Rosa toughens green building rules

Santa Rosa Press Democrat - Feb 15

The City Council of Santa Rosa, in an effort to make the City of Santa Rosa a leader in the green building movement, agreed last week to increase the requirements residential and commercial builders must meet before building. A formal ordinance implementing the changes still must be adopted. Under the city system, points are awarded to various construction components based on impacts on air quality, water use and energy. The less impact and more environmentally friendly, the greater the number of points awarded. Under the plan endorsed by the City Council, the minimum point level is being raised.

'LEED for datacenters' proposed

Greener Buildings - Feb 17

A coalition of IT industry groups is seeking a LEED standard for datacenters with help from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which has developed a draft for performance criteria. To see the draft material submitted to the USGBC for consideration, [click here](#).

Seminars

'Carbon Credits' Seminar

The Seminar Group - Feb 12

The '[Carbon Credits](#)' seminar is scheduled for March 6, 2009 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. The conference will provide a historical perspective on carbon management legislation, an overview of the current climate, and a prospective on where carbon management legislation may be heading in the future.

Notable green building projects...

Starbucks opens LEED certified, 'green' roasting plant

USGBC - Feb 19

Starbucks said it has opened a roasting plant in South Carolina that has been awarded LEED certification for new construction by the USGBC. Starbucks said 20% of the plant's building materials were from recycled content and more than 75% of construction waste was recycled. A portion of the power used to operate the plant will be supplied by wind energy.

[A small home built from shipping pallets](#)

Green Building Elements - Feb 19

Michael Janzen is blazing a trail with his free tiny [pallet house project](#). It is made out of recycled shipping pallets, and it isn't costing him anything to build. He is also sharing his plans so people can build their own.

[A house made of trash](#)

Green Building Elements - Feb 17

A visit to Doug Eichenberger's Lucky Ranch reveals a very special looking barn, built out of trash. Eichenberger and some of his associates see plenty of possibilities for this type construction in the developing world. The materials were virtually free, excluding transportation. The majority of the cost was labor, which is plentiful in the developing world.

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