

# Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

**Allen Matkins**  
attorneys at law

October 30, 2008

## **LA implements new green building code Nov. 1st**

*Your Street - October 21*

Los Angeles' will hold a public event on November 1, 2008 to kick off the city's new green building code. Beginning November 1st, projects of 50,000 square feet or more and residential projects of seven stories or more must comply with the intent of the US Green Building Council's LEED Certified Level. Developers can voluntarily comply with LEED Silver level, which will give them priority processing, a faster plan check and expedited permitting in various departments. Further, DWP is offering incentives.

## **Green Building Focus**

### **Mayor's alliance and USGBC promote green schools**

*U.S. Green Building Council - October 23*

Mayor Manny Diaz of Miami and Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle announced the formation of the Mayors' Alliance for Green Schools, a coalition of mayors seeking to promote the benefits of green schools in their communities. The Mayor's Alliance was developed in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council. "Schools are one of the fastest-growing sectors," looking at sustainability, says Rachel Gutter, senior manager-education sector of the USGBC. Since LEED for Schools was established in April 2007, the council has seen an average of one to two new schools applying for certification every day. The US currently has approximately 126,000 schools for grades K-12, and about 1,000 have registered for or achieved some level of LEED certification.

### **Navitas Capital and Webcor form strategic green relationship**

Navitas Capital and Webcor Builders announced a strategic relationship to drive sustainability in the built environment. Under the agreement, Webcor will assist Navitas in identifying, evaluating and incubating innovative green building materials and advanced technologies focused on green building practices. Navitas will provide venture capital and strategic assistance to such green building companies. As a part of the strategic relationship, Webcor's Phil Williams will join Navitas Capital's Advisory Board. Williams heads both Webcor's Sustainability and Systems Engineering groups as a Vice President and is the Chairman of SF Mayor's Green Building Task Force.

## **Michigan considers LEED ten-year tax abatement scheme**

*MLive.com - October 22*

Michigan is considering a real- and personal-property tax abatement for LEED-certified buildings at 20% for certified, 30% for silver, 40% for gold and 50% for platinum. The proposed 10-year abatement is intended to push more developers to invest in green building.

## **Hampton Virginia mulls wind turbine ordinance**

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### **Bryan C. Jackson**

Editor

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Events

### **Los Angeles Business Council ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**

**November 14, 2008**

7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Harold M. Williams Auditorium  
The Getty Center

### **About Allen Matkins**

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a California law firm with over 240 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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*Seacoast Online - October 26*

Hampton Virginia is considering a voter-approved zoning ordinance that will regulate the construction of residential wind turbines. The draft ordinance will deal with recently passed legislation in support of residential turbines. The legislation, signed into law by Gov. John Lynch, states that towns can no longer limit or hinder small wind energy systems through ordinances or regulations. The ordinance is needed to set guidelines for installing wind turbines in town.

### **The Supreme Court considers five environmental cases**

*National Law Journal - October 24*

The Supreme Court has agreed to review five environmental cases so far this term. Some cases consider the ability of environmentalists and the government to enforce the nation's major environmental laws and how business and industry to survive and prosper under those laws. The cases help define the still-emerging Roberts Court.

### **Sustainable colleges seen an emerging field of study**

*Christian Science Monitor - October 26*

Some 580 colleges have vowed to cut their greenhouse-gas impact to zero, however many students have discovered the difficulties in going carbon neutral. Campuses account for a small portion of the U.S.' greenhouse-gas emissions, but many see campuses as well positioned to promote environmental sustainability as centers of innovation, models of social responsibility, and educators of future workers and decision makers. "Climate planning is an emerging field, and ... the plans [colleges] come up with will be helpful to folks in other sectors," says Julian Dautremont-Smith, associate director of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

### **White House honors federal agencies for saving energy**

*U.S. Department of Energy - October 23*

The White House honoured four federal entities: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Marine Corps; U.S. General Services Administration; and, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, for their support, leadership, and efforts in promoting and improving energy savings in their facilities and operations. Teams from these federal entities, which included 44 federal employees and contractors, are responsible for estimated annual savings in excess of \$72 million and more than three trillion British Thermal Units (Btu), equivalent to the annual energy use of approximately 32,000 typical households.

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#### **Notable green building projects...**

##### **LA Convention Center receives LEED-EB certification**

The Los Angeles Convention Center announced the formal acceptance of its certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB), awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. Various physical models of the earth-friendly programs implemented at LACC were on exhibition for public viewing.

### **Suffolk University residence hall receives LEED gold**

CBT Architects received LEED Gold certification for Suffolk University's 10 West Residence Hall in Massachusetts. Suffolk's newest residence hall combines smart real estate strategy, innovative design and green building practices to meet the demand for student housing.

### **Palm Beach County to build LEED library**

Slattery & Associates announced the design of the new Acreage Library project for Palm Beach County. The building is proposed to be 30,000 square feet and is located in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Acreage Library will be the first LEED certified library for Palm Beach County.

### **Telus to build LEED data centre in Quebec**

Telus will invest more than \$33 million in a LEED certified new Internet data centre to be located in Laval, Quebec. To counter the heat generated by the computer servers, its high density power design and efficient heat exchange system will turn Quebec's cold climate into "free cooling" during two thirds of the year. Large, highly efficient air conditioning units will be used when "free cooling" is unavailable.

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