

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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Real estate firms awarded grants to find energy solutions

The Daily Green - September 29

Twenty-one companies most likely to find innovative ways to reduce energy consumption will split \$15 million from the Department of Energy as part of the Net-Zero Commercial Building Initiative. Of the 21 companies, 11 are the following commercial real estate firms: CB Richard Ellis, Forest City Enterprises, Hines, InterContinental Hotels Group, The Opus Group, ProLogis, Regency Centers, Ryan Companies US, Simon Property Group, Tishman Speyer, and The Westfield Group.

Commercial buildings in the United States account for 19% of energy consumption and 18% of greenhouse gas emissions. Each year, 10 million sq.ft. of space is either built or renovated. The DEO goal is to produce new buildings that are 50% more efficient than the standards set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and renovated buildings that are 30% more efficient than the standards. Awardees get access to the DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and National Renewable Energy Laboratory, where research on these topics is underway.

Green Building Focus

Report focuses on bringing IT to water management

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development - October 6

Companies and governments are developing strategies to manage water more wisely, according to The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, which posted a GreenBiz report, one of a series of reports by thought leaders in the green business arena. The report, entitled "Bringing Advanced Information Technology to Water Management" is prepared by Peter Williams, Chief Technology Officer of IBM's Big Green Innovations, which lays out the scope of the problems facing governments, water agencies, and utility companies as they address growing demand for water.

San Francisco issues solar challenge to 1,500 firms

GreenBiz - October 1

The 1,500 largest firms in San Francisco can each get a free solar assessment and an energy audit, if they enlist in Mayor Gavin Newsom's drive to install enough solar arrays to generate 5 megawatts of electricity, double the city's current capacity for sun power. The free assessments and audits for companies will help businesses identify potential energy efficiencies and savings. The program is to be funded in part by a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Cities initiative and the San Francisco Department of Environment's SF Energy Watch Program.

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The Daily Green - October 7

Several studies have linked inhalation of chlorine byproducts by swimmers to [increased asthma rates](#). Alternatives include [TechnoPure's](#) filtration system using coated titanium plates and copper and zinc ions and [DEL Ozone's](#) ozone injectors which can reduce chlorine up to 90%. The eco-friendly solution used in Europe for decades is the natural swimming pool. If managed properly, natural swimming pools have crystal clear water and require no chemicals to maintain due to their self-cleaning mini-ecosystems. "You can drink the water if you want to," says Morgan Brown of Idaho-based [Whole Water Systems, LLC](#). The natural pools designer says the systems have lower maintenance costs than conventional pools, and their installation costs are not much more than standard designs.

27 states now offer "Green" homeowners insurance

Forbes - September 30

Georgia homeowners who use environmentally friendly solar panels and recycled building materials on their houses can now get "green" homeowners insurance. The program offered by Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., guarantees that environmentally friendly homes will be rebuilt in the same way if damaged or destroyed. Georgia joins 26 other states where green insurance is available.

'Green' industrial park for downtown Los Angeles

LA Times - September 24

Los Angeles officials want to turn a former downtown brownfield site into a cluster of "green" manufacturing businesses to meet the growing demand for solar, wind and other clean technologies. Approximately one million sq. ft. would function as a green industrial park and incubator. Officials are looking to generate jobs and turn the area into a hotbed of green and sustainable companies.

U.S. Green Building Council releases its five-year plan

CoStar Group - September 24

The USGBC released its five year strategic plan which broadens its mission far beyond sustainable building certification. The plan strengthens USGBC's green building research and domestic policy, and prioritizes issues such as social equity and city planning.

Justin Timberlake to build a LEED platinum golf course

EcoRazzi - September 30

Justin Timberlake is seeking to transform a 303-acre golf course property in Tennessee into the first LEED platinum certified facility of its kind. A group of partners led by Timberlake, his mother and stepfather bought the Big Creek Golf Course for an undisclosed amount before it was scheduled to be sold by John Roebuck Auction Co. The group is building an upscale clubhouse, cart cottage and maintenance facility built to LEED's "platinum" designation.

Notable green building projects...

[Great River Energy headquarters earns LEED Platinum](#)

Great River Energy, located in Maple Grove Minnesota, indicated that its headquarters building has been awarded the Platinum LEED by USGBC. The building is the first in Minnesota to achieve the distinction and one of fewer than 100 buildings worldwide to receive the designation.

Children's Museum is NY's first LEED certified museum

The Brooklyn Children's Museum recently completed its extensive expansion. Designed by Rafael Vinoly Architects, it will be New York City's first LEED-certified museum in addition to being the first structure to tap geothermal wells as a means to heat and cool its grounds.

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