

Green Building Update

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publication

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D.C. green building law challenged

Building Green - Jan 22

In 2006, Washington D.C. passed a green construction law. Starting in 2008, the law required all public buildings to be certified as LEED Silver and starting in 2012, all large private commercial buildings must achieve LEED Certified. The law requires developers to maintain performance bonds for up to 4% of the construction cost with a maximum of \$3 million. If the commercial building fails to achieve LEED Certified, the performance bond proceeds are paid into a green building fund held by the City. Now, the National Association of Surety Bond Producers and the Surety and Fidelity Association of America are challenging the law as lacking clarity and introducing a potential conflicts of interest.

Green Building Focus

\$10 Billion in guarantees for energy projects

The [US Department of Energy](#) plans to award [\\$10 billion in federal loan guarantees](#) this year to support development of new technologies that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and advanced forms of transmission and distribution of electricity. The deadline to apply is February 26, 2009.

REPORT: California Green Innovation Index

GreenBiz - Jan 26

The [California Green Innovation Index](#), the second annual report of its kind by [Next 10](#), details the green house gas (GHG) reductions California has made through progress in renewable energy, transportation, clean tech investments and more. Also, the Index relates GHG reduction to the economy. According to the Index, California's economy is growing as emissions rates per capita are decreasing, and it's all happening faster in California than the rest of the country. From 2004-2005, the state reduced its GHG emissions by 2% and its economy grew by 5%.

USGBC and Cool Cities launch strategic partnership

Cool Cities - Jan 22

The U.S. Green Building Council and Sierra Club's Cool Cities campaign have formed a strategic partnership to promote the development, advancement and implementation of green building policies. The partnership will leverage Cool Cities' more than 400 local campaigns and USGBC's national network of 78 chapters to empower city residents, business owners, municipal employees and elected leadership to encourage their cities to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable and energy efficient buildings.

US green construction may follow Europe

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About Allen Matkins

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

Daily Journal of Commerce - Jan 26

Higher energy prices in Europe led EU builders to move to the forefront of the green building revolution. The US may be taking its cues from Europe. As energy prices rise and awareness increases in the US, a sense of urgency for sustainable design is spreading throughout the nation.

USGBC to consider apartment utility measurement strategy

CoStar Group - Jan 21

Laramar Property Group is seeking LEED – EBOM certification for The Fillmore Center in San Francisco. LEED – EBOM is short for LEED – Existing Buildings: Operation and Maintenance. The Fillmore includes 1,100 existing apartment units in 10 buildings that cover three city blocks. Tenants in The Fillmore are billed directly for utilities. Since tenant utility information is not freely accessible, Laramar's green consultants are asking tenants to allow a review of selected utility bills with the sole purpose of calculating the energy consumption of the project, which is necessary for LEED – EBOM certification. USGBC must approve of this new strategy.

Financial crisis could spur interest in green building

Spiegel - Jan 15

The world economic crisis and lack of available credit for construction may signal a new era in construction and architecture. Developers throughout the world are canceling or postponing ambitious projects. However, some observers say the economic crisis may create an opportunity for green architecture. Energy efficiency could become a strong future selling point and spur an aesthetic of simplicity, some experts say.

Notable green building projects...

LEED Gold Discovery Tower finds tenant

Building Design & Construction - Jan 20

Trammell Crow Company and Principal Real Estate Investors announced that global integrated energy company Hess Corporation has signed a long-term lease to occupy the entire 844,763 square foot Discovery Tower office building located at 1501 McKinney Street in Houston. Discovery Tower will now stand at 29 stories tall and is the first LEED Gold certified office building ever constructed in Houston's Central Business District. The building will be renamed Hess Tower.

First LEED 'gold' home in Albany area

The Business Review - Jan 20

Belmonte Builders has built the first house in the Albany, New York, region to be certified Gold under the LEED for Homes program. The 2,220-square-foot house at 3 Chantrey Boulevard in the Arlington Heights development in Halfmoon is about 51% more efficient than a standard home.

Wal-Mart goes green internationally

Greener Buildings - Jan 26

Wal-Mart Mexico recently announced that it has installed the largest photovoltaic solar power system in Latin America, a project that consists of more than 1,056 solar panels installed on 2,173.5 square meters, occupying about half the rooftop at the Bodega Aurrera Convencion in

Aguascalientes, Mexico. Also, Wal-Mart Canada opened the doors of its first green store prototype in Burlington, Canada. Wal-Mart Canada plans to open other stores this year that are at least 30 percent more energy efficient than standard sites. The Burlington, Canada store, however, is at least 60 percent more efficient than comparable conventional structures. The retailer lists two dozen environmentally friendly elements at the store including the first large-scale retail geothermal heating and cooling system in Canada.

LEED Silver Vancouver medical centre

Daily Commercial News and Construction Record - Jan 20

Stuart Olson is the general contractor of a LEED Silver office building project in Vancouver. When complete, the four-story facility will be home to health care, office and commercial retail space. WesGroup Income Properties is the owner, while the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority is the land developer.

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