

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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attorneys at law

November 22, 2011

[Better Buildings Challenge -- 20% energy drop by 2020](#)

DOE - Nov 16

The Better Buildings Challenge, rallies corporations, universities, and municipalities to make significant commitments to energy efficiency. The challenge aims to make the country's commercial and industrial buildings at least 20% more efficient over the next decade.

GREEN BUILDING FOCUS

[Energy Efficiency / Mortgage Valuation](#)

Sept 13

Energy efficiency is key to the future of the U.S. economy, and commercial buildings are among the largest users of energy. However, existing loan underwriting practices provide no incentive for building owners to make their buildings more energy efficient. This paper proposes a commercial-mortgage valuation and underwriting strategy that accounts for the energy risk of individual office buildings.

[The Economics of Green Building](#)

Urban Policy

Research on climate change suggests that small improvements in the "sustainability" of buildings can have large effects on greenhouse gas emissions and on energy efficiency in the economy. This paper analyzes the economics of "green" building. The authors relate the economic premiums for green buildings to their sustainability, confirming that the attributes rated for both thermal efficiency and sustainability contribute to premiums in rents and asset values.

[Green government buildings cost less to maintain](#)

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory - Nov 17

In addition to emitting less carbon dioxide and using less water, sustainably designed federal buildings cost 19% less to maintain, according to a [report](#) by the DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The Government Services Administration commissioned PNNL to conduct a post-occupancy evaluation of 22 "green" federal buildings from across the country. PNNL also found that, on average, green buildings, compared to commercial buildings in general: (1) use 25% less energy; (2) use 11% less water; (3) emit 34% less carbon dioxide; and (4) have 27% more satisfied occupants.

[Santa Barbara launches home energy financing program](#)

DOE - Nov 14

Santa Barbara County, through the DOE's Better Buildings Neighborhood, launched an energy efficiency financing program called "emPowerSBC." The program, which is funded under the Recovery Act with \$2.4 million from the DOE, will allow homeowners in Santa Barbara, Calif. to add energy-saving home upgrades such as improved insulation, windows and doors, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. This is one of 41 Better Buildings Neighborhood projects nationwide. EmPowerSBC also partners with Energy

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SPONSORS

Upgrade California to offer local residents up to \$4,000 in utility rebates to help them make energy-efficient changes to their homes.

[Handbook to track green performance](#)

GreenBiz - Nov 14

The "[Building Performance Tracking Handbook](#)" by the California Commissioning Collaborative, tracks and manages building performance so building operators can collect information, determine where problems are occurring, figure out why and fix them.

[Nationwide guide to green building spotlights Pima County](#)

Tucson Citizen - Nov 15

Pima County's efforts to "go beyond code" to provide green buildings are included in a new federal guide to "[Going Beyond Code: Creating Effective Green Building Programs for Energy Efficient and Sustainable Communities](#)." The guide is designed to help state and local governments design and implement successful "beyond code" programs for new commercial and residential buildings.

[LEED-certified convention center studied](#)

World Architecture News - Nov 16

EvolveEA evaluated the effectiveness of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center (DLCC) in downtown Pittsburgh -- a study marking the first time a prominent LEED-certified building has undergone a comprehensive evaluation for green operations. The study benchmarked the DLCC against other convention centers and investigated the building's performance as a physical building and as a functioning organization. The study highlighted that 38% of DLCC revenues from 2006 to 2010 came from green-seeking events. The building earned LEED Gold in 2003.

[Columbia tests green techniques](#)

Columbia Spectator - Nov 15

Columbia's Manhattanville campus project plans to reduce its ecological footprint by reducing air pollution, dust, noise and waste by using filters, ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel, truck wash devices, and a 90% construction recycling.

GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS

[Lubbock earns LEED Platinum](#)

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal - Nov 15

Lubbock Christian University in Texas received LEED Platinum for its Cardwell Welcome Center and features: (1) radiant floor heating; (2) a ground-powered heating and cooling system; (3) 90% natural lighting; (4) 40% less water; and (5) 35% less energy than a similar size building.

[CO Middle School earns LEED Platinum](#)

Boulder Valley School District - Nov 10

Casey Middle School in Boulder Colorado earned LEED Platinum and features: (1) solar photovoltaics; (2) recycled content and low VOCs; (3) roof garden;



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(4) natural daylighting; and (5) ground source heat pumps for 90% of heating and cooling needs.

[Epsten headquarters earns LEED Platinum](#)

Business Wire / Epsten Group - Nov 15

Epsten Group earned LEED Platinum by renovating a 1940's building for its new [headquarters](#). The building features: (1) photovoltaic arrays; (2) green roof; (3) energy-efficient lighting and windows; (4) highly insulated walls with air barriers; (5) water-saving fixtures; (6) low-VOC paint; and (7) salvaged wood.

[Amonix facilities in CA, NV earns LEED Gold](#)

Amonix - Nov 17

Amonix's facilities in California and Nevada earned LEED Gold for green construction, and high energy and water efficiency.

[Facebook data center earns LEED Gold](#)

GigaOM - Nov 17

Facebook's data center in Oregon earned LEED Gold and features: (1) 52% less energy consumption; (2) outside air and evaporative cooling; (3) 7% power conversion loss versus the typical 22% to 25% loss in data centers; (4) solar arrays; and (5) LED control systems.

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