

March 27, 2009

NAHB's green product seals of approval

Business Wire - March 19

The [NAHB Research Center](#) recognized structural frame products from [iLevel](#) by Weyerhaeuser as its first “Green Approved” product. The NAHB Green Approval is intended to provide third party evidence that building products meet specific scoring criteria required under the National Green Building Standard, a consensus-developed standard that was recently approved by ANSI. iLevel’s full range of engineered wood products and solid sawn lumber are now designated as NAHB Research Center Green Approved products.

Green Building Focus

Report: Green demand strong despite recession

CoStar Group - March 18

The shift to sustainable buildings will experience only a mild disruption from the global recession and credit crunch, according to [research published last month by RREEF](#), the investment management business of Deutsche Bank’s Asset Management division. The report found little evidence that firms were backing off long-term commitments to sustainability. According to the report, economic conditions have not diminished the appetite of tenants and property investors for green real estate.

Focus on long-term green benefits, not economic benefits

Business Week - March 16

The falling price of oil has uncovered problems with forecasting models for the green building industry, said Peter Morris, principal of Davis Langdon. Lower oil prices should prompt the industry to focus on more than just the economic benefits of building green, he said.

Online green building summit in April

Dexigner Network - March 20

[Green Building Summit](#) brings together business, architecture, and engineering fields to illustrate best practices, case studies, tips, and strategies to capitalize on green building. The Summit will describe cutting costs with efficient building design and reducing your environmental impact from a planning and building perspective.

Green architecture and future buildings

Ecopreneurist - March 16

Many factors, including rising energy prices, the decreasing cost of green building products and acceptance of the benefits of green building, have produced a perfect storm that could realistically propel green building forward to mainstream acceptance. Warren Lloyd, of [Lloyd Architecture](#), says, “Things will be very different [when residential construction starts to heat up again after the downturn]. Green Building will just be how we do things.” And architects have more opportunity than most to incorporate sustainable choices into products, services, and day-to-day operations.

Balancing costs and sustainability

Land Development Today - March 18

Many building professionals pursue LEED certification because they believe it's the right thing to do. Since the first of the USGBC's LEED guidelines were introduced in 2000, consensus has been building that adherence to those guidelines is good for everyone—from building owners and managers to the planet itself. Still, costs are a concern. However, certain techniques, outlined in this article, exist to help owners, architects and contractors in various markets capture those points for the fewest possible dollars.

Existing buildings -- opportunity to reduce carbon

Huffington Post - March 19

According to San Francisco's Mayor, existing buildings represent an important opportunity to reduce carbon emissions and create thousands of new jobs. To that effect, the Mayor has convened the [Existing Buildings Efficiency Task Force](#) to explore and help implement cost-effective opportunities to cut energy consumption by 20% to 50%, improve water efficiency, and continue to move toward the elimination of solid waste in San Francisco.

Dates for LEED 2009 and LEED AP

buildinggreen.com - March 18

The USGBC has announced that LEED 2009 will launch officially on April 27, 2009. This date will also see the transition of LEED project registration and certification to the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), the third party that will also administers the LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) credential. Further, several versions of previous LEED AP exams will be retired and new versions introduced.

Notable green building projects...

Vanderbilt's seven LEED gold buildings

SDR - March 16

Vanderbilt University continues to go for LEED gold with three new residence halls. This brings the total to seven LEED-certified buildings at The Commons, the university's new campus for first-year students.

"Greenest" data center in North America

Data Center Dynamics - March 23

Canadian telecom giant TELUS plans to build a giant internet data center as part of a 2009 \$500 million capital investment. The company said it is currently searching for a site and that the \$500 million would be focused primarily on advanced wireless and wireline broadband infrastructure. The new data center, to open in 2011, will have one of the lowest carbon footprints of all data centers in North America and is aiming for LEED certification.

Florida's \$12 M 'green building' expansion

Marco News - March 19

Marco Island, Florida is preparing for its second green building. The first was a public works facility still in the design phase. Mackle Park's Community Center green upgrades and expansion are part of the long-term plan for the park system.

CT's First LEED-platinum certified home

greenbuildingadvisor.com - March 16

At first glance, it could easily be mistaken for a well-appointed renovation of an early Connecticut farmhouse, but this new home in the Litchfield Hills is actually the first [LEED](#)-platinum home in the state. Traditional proportions, cedar clapboards, a partial timber frame, and a standing seam metal roof are nods to the region's architectural vernacular, though an open design, superinsulated envelope, and both passive and active solar features make this truly a 21st-century home.

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Bryan C. Jackson

Editor

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Michael Kostecka

Associate Editor

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