

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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Stimulus includes \$100 billion in green measures

Business Green - Feb 13

During House and Senate negotiations, the stimulus package was cut from \$838 billion to \$789 billion. However, the green measures included in the Senate version of the stimulus package were retained. Around \$100 billion in renewables and energy efficiency investment plans survived the negotiations. As a further boost to the US renewables industry, the Senate bill provides projects with grants in lieu of tax credits.

The Senate package includes (1) \$20bn in tax breaks to renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, (2) \$30bn in investment earmarked for the rollout of smart grid technologies, (3) \$10bn for improving energy efficiency of public sector buildings, and (4) billions more for clean tech R&D. Also, \$8.4bn for mass transit projects, \$8bn for high-speed rail links and \$6.4bn for clean water projects.

EDITOR'S NOTE: \$4.5bn is earmarked for converting GSA facilities to high-performance green buildings.

Green Building Focus

EPA may regulate carbon dioxide

New York Times - Feb 19

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) is expected to act for the first time to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The decision, which would probably be implemented in stages, would impact transportation, manufacturing and utility companies as well as accelerate energy and [climate change](#) legislation in Congress. The EPA's regulation of CO2 could influence the climate talks set for December in Copenhagen.

Launch of LEED-ND nears

Green Source - Feb 12

The USGBC and partners - Congress for the New Urbanism and the Natural Resources Defense Council - recently released a revised rating system for the LEED for Neighborhood Development program - LEED-ND. The window for public comment on the new criteria closed in January 2009. If no second response period is launched, LEED-ND may open for enrollment as early as this spring.

Sonoma to pass green building law

North Bay Business Journal - Feb 16

The county of Sonoma plans to adopt a green-building ordinance as more stringently water & energy-efficient state building codes and project-rating standards to take effect this summer. The Permit & Resource Management Department has been putting together a draft ordinance and obtaining input from various stakeholders. The ordinance will require residential projects to qualify for at least 50 points on the BuildItGreen rating system checklist and commercial projects to achieve 20 points on the LEED

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About Allen Matkins

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

checklist.

Californian PUC considers major solar deal

Business Green - Feb 13

The California Public Utilities Commission is examining a solar energy deal that could power almost a million Californian homes, after Southern California Edison reached an agreement with BrightSource Energy for 7 solar projects totaling 1.3 Gigawatts of energy. The projects would use BrightSource's Luz Power Tower 550, which employs thousands of mirrors to direct sunlight to the top of a tower. The heat turns water into steam which rotates a turbine.

Vermont's LEED certification trend

Burlington Free Press - Feb 9

The number of buildings achieving LEED-certification in Vermont has tripled in the past 3 years, says William Maclay Architects and Planners of Waitsfield. And, although the sample is small - from three in 2003-2005 to nine from 2006-2008 - the overall trend in Vermont is clear: developers are increasingly looking to build green.

Hydrogen home heating unit

HHOHHU.com LLC - Feb 13

Mark Ackkerman and Randy Bunn have invented a self-contained home heating unit along with a hybrid furnace conversion that utilizes water as its fuel. The unit utilizes a dual hydrogen separation unit working in conjunction with both heat exchangers and heat sinks and emits no carbon or green house gasses.

Seminars

ACE Sustainable Symposium

Green Building Elements - Feb 13

Held in San Francisco, the ACE Sustainable Symposium brought together a panel of organic architect, writer, teacher, and the always amusing [Eric Corey Freed](#), stylishly ecofab [Zem Joaquin](#), the reserved but passionate [Matt Golden](#) and writer [Sophie Uliano](#). The symposium focused on green building but contained various snippets of other sustainable elements as well. Major items debated were the tankless water heater, "greenwashing" and Clorox's new best selling line "Green Works".

RETECH's new approach to green schools

US Green Building Council - Feb 11

The American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE) will host the "Renewable Energy Technology Conference and Exhibition ([RETECH](#)) 2009", in Las Vegas, February 25th-27th. RETECH will highlight a new approach to greening schools including (1) construction of a building and all energy systems with a focus on energy efficiency and affordable renewable energy technologies and (2) an experiential educational component permitting students to carry messages of renewable energy and energy efficiency back home.

'Carbon Credits' Seminar

The Seminar Group - Feb 12

The '[Carbon Credits](#)' seminar is scheduled for March 6, 2009 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. The conference will provide a historical perspective on carbon management legislation, an overview of the current climate, and a prospective on where carbon management legislation may be heading in the future.

Notable green building projects...

[Hockey arena scores LEED Silver](#)

Sustainable Industries - Feb 13

Washington state may soon gain bragging rights for housing the United States' first sports arena designed to meet LEED standards. The Showare Center in Kent, Washington, is likely to become the nation's first arena to garner LEED-Silver certification. According to a spokesperson, the building's management has already confirmed 36 LEED points, putting it just 3 points away from the Gold standard.

[One Financial wins LEED certification](#)

Boston Business Journal - Feb 10

The 46-story tower at One Financial Center has been awarded a LEED Silver Certification. The 1.3-million-square-foot tower, owned by Beacon Capital Partners and MetLife Inc., was recently named Boston's Office Building of the Year by the Building Owners and Managers Association.

[UT to build \\$73 million LEED events center](#)

Fort Worth Business Press - Feb 12

The University of Texas at Arlington was given the go ahead for the design and development of a 190,000-square-foot, 6,500-seat special events center. The University of Texas System Board of Regents, in Austin, voted to approve the facility's development, which is expected to cost about \$73 million and incorporate LEED features.

[LEED NY skyscraper cancelled due to economy](#)

GreenBuildings.com - Feb 12

On the heels of the much heralded One Bryant Park in New York, which was developed as the first LEED Platinum Certified skyscraper in New York City, Boston Properties had touted its 1 million square foot office tower at 250 West 55th Street in Manhattan, stating that it would achieve LEED Gold Certification status. But, market conditions have ended the deal indefinitely as a result of the Company's inability to secure a lease transaction with a major New York law firm with which it has been negotiating over the last year.

[Yurts can decrease energy footprint](#)

Green Building Elements - February 11

To decrease energy footprints in small homes, the "Yurt" provides a simple and small round design. The Yurt is a type of "Green Weefab Mini-Home" and can be customized into a hand-built "Earth Sheltered House" for those on a budget. The frame of the Yurt can be made with recycled wood, metal, and green materials. The top can be covered in solar shingles and a small-scale wind turbine. The structure can be reworked to include compostable toilets, outdoor showers that collect rainwater, sinks and kitchenettes.

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