

Green Building Update

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publication

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California unveils far-reaching climate change plan

The Associated Press - June 27

California's environmental regulators put forward a far-reaching [plan](#) to expand the state's renewables portfolio standard, set up a cap-and-trade program and impose clean-car and low-carbon-fuel standards in order to meet the state's goal of cutting greenhouse gases in the next decade. The California Air Resources Board's draft scoping plan details a comprehensive strategy for reaching the state's aim of bringing greenhouse gas emissions down to their 1990 levels by 2020.

Related coverage:

[California Outlines Broadest U.S. Global Warming Plan](#)

[California Dreaming: Can a Growing State Slash Emissions?](#)

Green Building Focus

Leonardo Academy publishes LEED-EB cost report

Green Lodging News - June 25

The Leonardo Academy, a nonprofit organization, examined (1) the costs of implementing LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) and (2) the operating costs compare to other buildings. The report is titled "The Economics of LEED for Existing Buildings for Individual Buildings". Leonardo Academy sent a survey to all LEED-EB buildings, 53 at the time of the survey, and received 23 responses. Building owners and operators were asked to identify which LEED-EB measures were low/no cost actions and which had significant costs. The survey found that the majority of measures associated with gaining LEED-EB status include low or no costs. The overall cost of LEED-EB ranged from nothing to \$6.46 per square foot, with the average cost hovering around \$2.43 per square foot.

Prima County in Tucson becomes first government agency to provide LEED certifications to home builders

Arizona Daily Star - June 27

Pima County in Tucson will become the first government agency in the country to provide LEED certifications to home builders. Normally, a builder who wants a LEED certification would have to hire a private contractor to do the certification, in addition to paying fees to the U.S. Green Building Council. With the average home requiring 81 hours to certify, the savings will be almost \$4,000. Rich Michal, chair of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Green Building Council said Pima County providing certifications would encourage more builders to pursue green building. "The knock against LEED was always that it was too expensive," he said. "With Pima County, they're already reviewing your plans. Locally, it will do nothing but help promote market transformation and sustainability."

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Cleveland approves bill that would finance \$4.6 million in green building projects

WKYC TV - June 27

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson announced the approval of \$4.6 million in financing for 10 green development projects through the 2008 Housing Trust Fund allocations in an effort to press forward in his administration's goal to have "green building" as a key part of Cleveland's revitalization strategy. More than 64 percent of the funds allocated through the 2008 Housing Trust Fund went to projects that have committed to satisfying a green standard of construction. These 10 projects are expected to bring on line an additional 654 units of affordable and energy efficient housing.

Oakland (Mich.) Commissioner proposes countywide program that would require all new construction to meet LEED standards

MLive.com - June 27

Oakland County Commissioner David Woodward is hoping to make Oakland a "Cool County" through new green building standards. Under the program, mayors must commit to reduce global warming by signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Current Oakland County "Cool Cities" include Royal Oak, Southfield, Warren and Ferndale. "Cool Counties" in the program include King County, Wash.; Fairfax County, Va.; and Nassau County, N.Y. Woodward is calling for the creation of a greenhouse gas reduction task force, as well as a mandate that all new construction in Oakland County meet LEED standards.

LEED certification for retailers has begun spreading to banks: USGBC

Seattle Times - June 26

LEED certification for retailers has begun spreading to banks. Wachovia has become the third bank to earn approval for a prototype to build hundreds of LEED-certified locations with less red tape than a traditional LEED certification. Only four companies have won approval for prototypes that can be used for multiple locations. The others are PNC Bank of Pittsburgh in 2006, Citigroup and Office Depot both in 2008.

Engineering News-Record ranks HOK as world's greenest design firm

Marketwire.com - June 25

A recent survey published in Engineering News-Record ranked HOK is the world's greenest design firm. The inaugural rankings are based on revenue for design services generated in 2007 from projects actively seeking certification from major third-party environmental standards or ratings organizations, such as the U.S. Green Building council's LEED system. HOK generated \$151.45 million, or 23 percent of its total revenue, from sustainable projects in 2007. HOK is a global architectural firm that specializes in planning, design and delivery solutions for buildings and communities.

Architect plans "revolving" sustainable building

Daily Commercial News and Construction Record - June 27

An Italian architect said he is poised to start construction on a new [skyscraper in Dubai](#) that will be "the world's first building in motion." The 80-story tower will feature revolving floors that give the building an ever-shifting shape. Giant wind turbines installed between each floor will generate enough electricity to power the entire building. Speaking at a news conference in New York, the building's designer, David Fisher, declared that his tower will revolutionize the way skyscrapers are made.

Notable green building projects...

[PNC Place to become the first office building in Nation's Capital to achieve LEED platinum](#)

PNC Place will become the first office building in Washington, DC, designed to achieve LEED Platinum certification. The project is a joint venture between PNC Financial Services Group Inc. and Vornado/Charles E. Smith.

[The Phoenix Convention Center, designed by HOK, awarded LEED silver](#)

The Phoenix Convention Center announced that the convention center's West Building was awarded LEED Silver certification by the USGBC. The West Building was designed by Leo A Daly and HOK.

[Resort in Maui aiming for LEED certification](#)

Starwood Vacation Ownership, a division of Starwood Hotels & Resorts, is planning to expand its portfolio of resorts in Hawaii with the development of its third vacation ownership resort on Maui. The new property, expected to open fall 2011, was designed to achieve LEED certification.