

May 29, 2009

Which city is the greenest?

Greentech Media - May 20

With one of the nation's most aggressive initiatives, San Jose argues that it is one of the greenest cities in the U.S. However, Palo Alto, Calif. asserts it is the greenest city which includes Stanford University, Packard's garage, Facebook, etc. Other cities claiming to be the greenest include Berkeley, Calif.; Austin, Texas; Boulder, Colo.; Burlington, Vt.; Madison, Wis.; New York City; Portland, Ore.; and San Francisco, Calif.

Green Building Focus

Survey: 'durability' ranked first in green attributes

Sustainable Business - May 20

According to a new survey commissioned by PPG Industries, durability is the most important green building attribute. Durability was followed by ENERGY STAR compliance, life-cycle assessment, no- or low-volatile organic compound content and the ability to source products regionally. Additionally, durability is the most important attribute among building products in general, ranking slightly ahead of price.

Seattle leads in LEED buildings

ABC7.com - May 18

In 2008, Seattle was recognized as the nation's leader in LEED-certified buildings by the USGBC, culminating an eight-year-old sustainable building policy. The Seattle policy requires all city-funded projects to be certified as LEED silver. Also, the city has an impressive bike trails system, a community-based home energy efficiency program, and a climate initiative. Seattle has set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. LEED-certified buildings in Seattle include the City Hall, the Central Library, McCaw Performance Hall and the Seattle Justice Center.

ICSC – retailers consider green technologies

globest.com - May 29

At the ICSC convention in Las Vegas, retailers examined green and sustainable technologies as a way to create major savings for shopping centers. Opportunity exists to improve sustainability in HVAC, lighting, photovoltaics, glass, etc.

LEED statistics

Business Week - May 18

To date almost 21,000 projects have registered for LEED certification. Further, numerous municipalities, state governments, and federal agencies have adopted LEED, incorporating it into construction guidelines, legislation, and requirements for incentive programs.

Brad Pitt donates to LEED arena

Ecorazzi - May 20

Brad Pitt and Doug Pitt donated \$600,000 to Missouri's Drury University for its LEED gold arena. The 65,000-square foot arena, the O'Reilly Family Event Center, is primarily used for sporting events, performances and graduations. A computer-generated fly-through of the new arena is available [here](#).

West Tennessee's first LEED building

National Resources Defense Council - May 16

Independent Bank's 2,500-square-foot branch in Germantown, Memphis, is believed to be the first West Tennessee building to achieve LEED certification. Independent Bank's cost increased by about 5% through the LEED process, but the architect for the project believes the building will be 21% more energy efficient than a similar traditional building.

Evanston considers green building "deposit" law

The Daily Northwestern - May 19

Evanston, Illinois is proposing a new Green Building Ordinance. The ordinance requires builders to deposit a portion of the cost of their projects – which will be refunded upon achieving LEED certification.

USGBC explores multi-building certification

USGBC - May 21

The USGBC pilot program certifies several buildings with a single application. This pilot program was launched in November 2006 and currently has 40 companies with 1,745 buildings. The USGBC hopes to bring the portfolio program out of the pilot phase during the third quarter of 2009.

LEED project management seminar

USGBC - May 25

On June 3rd, USGBC-NCC Monterey Bay will present "LEED Project Management - Lessons Learned & Best Practices." This seminar features three speakers with an impressive depth of LEED project management experience in a variety of LEED project types.

Notable green building projects...

[Greenest college housing facility](#)

Daily Nexus - May 19

UCSB's San Clemente Village is now the most sustainable housing facility of all U.S. college campuses according to the USGBC. The complex earned a LEED Gold rating.

[First LEED-EBOM Gold office buildings](#)

BusinessWire - May 19

Watt Plaza, a complex of two 23-story office towers encompassing 900,000 square feet in the heart of Century City, California is the first office building to achieve LEED Gold for existing buildings in the area of operations and maintenance (LEED-EBOM).

[First LEED platinum athletic complex](#)

WCTV - May 20

The \$28 million addition to the University of Florida's Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, has achieved LEED Platinum. The Complex is the first building in Florida and the first athletic facility in the nation to achieve platinum status.

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