

Sustainability Takes Hold



An [article](#) in the latest issue of Constructor Magazine, the publication of the [AGC of America](#), makes a point that I have been [making for a while](#), namely that sustainable building is here to stay.

The article quotes several contractor members of the AGC and essentially concludes that

Green is the new gold

I agree. Especially in tough economic times such as these, contractors and subcontractors need to distinguish themselves. Owners need to save money through more sustainable and energy efficient practices. Possibly more importantly, government is jumping into the breach to require such building practices, whether through building codes or [LEED](#) certification requirements.

Not only is such activity a [moral imperative](#), but it makes good economic sense. For this reason construction professionals must learn how to "talk the talk" of sustainability. To miss this train could mean bankruptcy or worse given current trends.

Of course the [risks](#) must be taken into account. Contracts must be drafted in such a way that those performing the work are not held accountable for [uncontrollable human interaction](#) with a building so that contractors and subcontractors will be ready to do what is necessary for a sustainable building future. A qualified [construction attorney](#) can help.

In short (like that isn't too late at this point), while construction professionals must learn to build "green" to survive, they also need to make sure they don't die trying.

Please check out my [Construction Law Musings Blog](#) for more on Virginia construction law and other topics.