

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
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publication

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[Insurance company offers coverage for green homes](#)

U.S. Green Building Council - July 8

Fireman's Fund Insurance is targeting environmentally conscious homeowners with a new insurance product that would cover the cost of rebuilding a home to green building standards. Fireman's Fund is offering the green coverage option in several states, including Arizona, Georgia, Maine and Nevada. In California it will be folded into the overall plan beginning Aug. 1. The green coverage is only being offered as an add-on to the company's top-tier homeowners insurance package.

Green Building Focus

[USGBC's "Advanced Energy Design Guide" available for download](#)

U.S. Green Building Council - July 3

The Advanced Energy Design Guide series of publications is now available as free electronic downloads on the U.S. Green Building Council site. The publication series has provided 30 percent energy reduction guidance for the following types of buildings: small retail buildings, small office buildings, K-12 school buildings and warehouse buildings. USGBC members can download the publications for free in partnership with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), U.S. Department of Energy, the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America and the American Institute of Architects.

[USGBC modifying the LEED certification program through consolidation](#)

U.S. Green Building Council - July 12

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is changing its certification process for green buildings through its LEED program. LEED 2009 will reorganize the commercial rating systems by altering its points structure by consolidating, aligning and updating them into one umbrella system. "The entire process will be flexible to adapt to changing technology, account for regional differences and encourage innovation" according to a USGBC press release. The certification process has been criticized for being too rigid, cumbersome and demanding, for being too costly, and for awarding points illogically. More than 1,500 buildings have received LEED certification since the program was introduced in 2000, and more than 11,000 are seeking certification.

[Lawsuit challenges Albuquerque's green building code](#)

Albuquerque Journal - July 8

Albuquerque's green building code is getting national attention from opponents, according to the Albuquerque Journal. A coalition of national industry groups and local companies has filed a federal lawsuit seeking to

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block much of the code's energy-efficiency requirements. The plaintiffs say the city regulations are pre-empted by federal law. The ordinances comprising Albuquerque's green building code are the only ones of their kind in the country. The city has postponed enforcement of the code.

Portland partners with the Home Builders Association to promote green building

Portland Daily Journal of Commerce - July 9

The City of Portland and the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland have been working to design a green building pilot program in order to development local industry and increase public awareness of green building. The pilot will facilitate the construction of green homes that exceed the current building code requirements for energy efficiency. The Energy Trust of Oregon, Energy Star and Earth Advantage will partner with the city on the project.

Toronto Mayor pushing LEED-H requirements

Daily Commercial News and Construction Record - July 10

Toronto's Mayor David Miller took a dig at the province for not moving quickly enough to incorporate LEED standards into the Ontario Building Code, according to the Daily Commercial News and Construction Record. Miller said LEED-H (for homes) "as a minimum requirement for any development in the city of Toronto is certainly something we'd like to do". The city recently broke ground for a \$100-million "Evergreen project", a mix of 206 low- rise townhouses and single family homes seeking LEED-H certification.

Notable green building projects...

[DOE headquarters in Washington receives Energy Star recognition from EPA](#)

U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today accepted an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certifying the Department of Energy's (DOE) James Forrestal Headquarters Building as an [ENERGY STAR](#) building. The Forrestal building uses 40 percent less energy than the average office building.

[Office Depot opens LEED retail store in Austin](#)

Office Depot has opened its first LEED certified store in Austin, TX. Office Depot says it is the first office supply retailer participating in the USGBC's Retail Volume Certification Portfolio Program, a pilot group formed to help retailers achieve LEED certification at numerous locations. The company is the first to have its prototype pre-certified under the USGBC's LEED for the New Construction Volume Certification Program.

[La Salle county, Illinois set to welcome its first LEED certified building](#)

Construction will begin for a \$3 million structure in La Salle county, Illinois for PCS Phosphate, the world's largest fertilizer enterprise . PCS will use the building as a multipurpose administrative center for its Marseilles operation. The center is slated to become the first LEED

certified building in the county.

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