

# Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

**Allen Matkins**  
attorneys at law

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## **U.S. House kills Senate Bill to extend solar tax credits**

*San Francisco Business Times - September 29*

The solar investment tax credit (ITC), which is set to expire on December 31st, will not be extended before the November presidential election. Solar Energy Industries Assoc. (SEIA) President Rhone Resch said the House of Representatives would not take up the measure before it adjourned Monday. Controversy over funding the ITC has led to the demise of five previous attempts to pass an extension. The administration has derailed several versions of the ITC because legislators proposed funding the ITC through closing tax loopholes and taking credits away from oil and gas. But SEIA blames the failure to extend on the Democrats' insistence that the ITC be fully funded. SolarCity CEO Lyndon Rive said "This is something that could create tens of thousands of jobs. The financial industry has collapsed, the construction industry has collapsed. The housing industry has collapsed. And solar is still growing. This will cause it to collapse ... And if political leaders can't see this, I can't understand what they're thinking."

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## **Green Building Focus**

### **[USGBC awards \\$2 million in research grants](#)**

*US Green Building Council - September 22*

The U.S. Green Building Council announced the 13 recipients of grants totaling \$2 million. The Green Building grant program is aiming to further the development of sustainable building practices and increase green market share. The grants range from \$90,000 to \$250,000. The complete list of winning projects is available [here](#).

### **[DOE awards \\$15 million as part of Net-Zero](#)**

*U.S. Department of Energy - September 26*

DOE announced that it has selected 21 companies to receive \$15 million as the first phase of awards for the Net-Zero Energy Commercial Building Initiative. DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and National Renewable Energy Laboratory will work with each awardee to design, build, commission, and operate at least one new energy-efficient prototype building. The building projects will use both cutting-edge energy efficiency technologies and on-site renewable power generation to reduce the energy use of the buildings.



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## **Venture Capital interested in Green Materials**

*California Real Estate Journal.com - September 29*

Entrepreneurs famous for their technology start-up companies are moving into the green materials arena and money is following them. "What is happening now feels similar to what happened in the early days of the Internet," said Trevor Stout, chief executive officer and founder of Los Altos-based Integrity Block, a manufacturer of concrete blocks. "A lot of tech entrepreneurs are starting companies that offer products that are

more sustainable."

### **Regulations demanding actual data are leapfrogging LEED**

*Building Green - September 29*

Regulations demanding actual data on energy use are leapfrogging LEED, according to Building Green. "It's not how efficient the building is but how much energy it really uses that matters." That's the gist of many comments in a thread on *Building Green's* blog about how to measure the actual energy performance of LEED buildings. Energy consumption surveys from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) confirm that, despite more efficient building systems, average energy use per square foot in U.S. buildings has held steady since 1920.

### **More green building legislation for New Jersey**

*Green Buildings NYC - September 18*

Two green building bills were sponsored in New Jersey as the state's fall legislative session opened, according to Green Buildings NYC. The first bill would require affordable housing to implement green design features, though the bill as proposed does not mandate any particular formal certification or enforcement. The second bill would provide low-interest loans available to developers who construct or renovate a building that qualifies as a "high-performance green building," which is defined as a building having at least 15,000 square feet that is designed and constructed in order to achieve at least a LEED silver rating.

### **Green Buildings top agenda in UAE**

*Zawya News - September 29*

Dubai, UAE, is already implementing mandatory requirements for all new buildings to comply with the LEED rating system. Abu Dhabi, UAE, is in the process of setting up green building codes in response to the demands imposed on new commercial, governmental, or residential buildings to be energy efficient and resistant to fire, flood, disasters and terrorist attacks.

### **Green homes do not sacrifice design**

*Industrial News - September 25*

Building a green home does not have to mean spending more, sacrificing beautiful design or giving up desirable amenities. EcoEdge Consulting, a San Jose-based green building consultant, recently completed a green scorecard for the northern California Energy Star home of Michel Langlois. The home received 175 points on Build It Green's GreenPoint Rated checklist for single family homes, putting it in the top 1 percent of nearly 650 homes rated. Also, the house was Energy Star-rated, receiving 5+ Stars on the rating scale.

### **Japan creates residential solar subsidy**

*Sustainable Business - September 29*

Japan will introduce a subsidy for residential solar power systems in an effort to boost its domestic solar business and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Owners of residential solar systems will be eligible for government subsidies equivalent US\$1,887, or about 10% of the cost of an

average system. Japan has set a goal of increasing solar power generation tenfold by 2020 and forty-fold by 2030.

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### **Notable green building projects...**

#### **[Tesla Motors LEED gold facility to build zero-emission cars](#)**

Tesla Motors is planning to build a \$250 million LEED gold facility to manufacture a zero-emission luxury sedan in the heart of Silicon Valley. The electric car company reports that it will relocate its corporate headquarters and research and development efforts to a consolidated campus in San Jose, California.

#### **[San Francisco's Academy of Sciences aiming for LEED platinum](#)**

The new San Francisco Academy of Sciences anticipates receiving a Platinum-LEED rating due in large part to the building's complex "living laboratory" green roof. The 2.5-acre green rooftop was designed by architect Renzo Piano and implemented by SWA Group.

#### **[New LEED-certified science center in Massachusetts](#)**

Genzyme Corp. announced the opening of its new LEED-certified science center in Framingham, Massachusetts. The \$125 million, 180,000-square-foot facility can house 350 employees in a building intended for the early-stage research of cancer, heart disease, genetic diseases, and endocrinology and neurological disorders.

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