

# Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins  
market intelligence  
publication

**Allen Matkins**  
attorneys at law

August 13, 2009

## **Obama urged to back \$500 B for green retrofits**

*Bloomberg - August 10*

Two policy groups said that President Obama should back a \$500 billion plan to make U.S. buildings more energy-efficient and aid the economic recovery, increase energy security and reduce global warming. The plan would increase the energy efficiency of 40% of commercial and residential buildings by 2020, generate about 625,000 full-time jobs, and save families \$300 to \$1,200 a year in energy costs. The plan will be discussed this week at an energy conference in Las Vegas by Former President [Bill Clinton](#), investor T. [Boone Pickens](#), California Governor [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) and former Vice President [Al Gore](#).

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## **Green Building Focus**

### **List of sustainability resources**

*SF Green Business Examiner - August 5*

Learn more about San Francisco area sustainability resources including [PG&E's Pacific Energy Center](#), [Build It Green](#) and the [Sustainable Building Advisors](#).

### **Guide to green potential**

*TAG International - August 10*

TAG International introduces "Maximizing Your Green Building Potential." This guide explores sustainable development approaches that will help developers meet strategic and economic goals.

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## **GBI launches professional certifications**

*Building Design & Construction - August 6*

The Green Building Initiative (GBI) announced the availability of two new personnel certification programs for green building professionals:

(1) Green Globes Professional and (2) Green Globes Assessor. These certifications cover best practices including Life Cycle Assessments.

## **Green social network for small businesses**

*Greenergy2030 - August 10*

Businesses can access [Greenergy2030.com](http://Greenergy2030.com), a free green network that hopes to change the world with education, legislation and information about sustainable energy and business practices.

## **Delaware joins USGBC**

*Sussex Countian - August 4*

Delaware is joining the USGBC, which already has two LEED buildings and 38 buildings attempting to become LEED certified. The main benefit of membership is reduced fees for LEED certification.

## **USGBC's Greenbuild Conference wins award**

*USGBC - August 5*

The USGBC's 2008 Greenbuild International Conference and Expo won Tradeshow Week's 50 fastest growing trade shows award. Greenbuild 2008 was held in Boston and drew more than 28,000 attendees and 800 exhibit booths. Greenbuild 2009, set for November 11 to 13, 2009, in Phoenix, Arizona, will feature educational programming, workshops and 1,700 exhibitors.

Related: [Phoenix hosts 2009 International Greenbuild Conference & Expo](#)

## **Webcast with George Woodwell**

*USGBC - July 30*

On August 26, 2009, from 12 to 1pm (ET), USGBC members can attend a free webcast featuring George Woodwell, author of *The Nature of a House*. Click [here](#) to register.

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

#### **California beach cafe reaches for Platinum**

*North County Times - August 7*

[Claire's on Cedros](#) hopes to be the first California restaurant to be LEED Platinum. Its floors are made with recycled glass and porcelain and its double doors were reused from Vandenberg AFB.

#### **Budget forces PUC green building cuts**

*San Francisco Examiner - August 3*

The \$190 million San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) building will still be LEED Platinum. However, the PUC cut the most expensive and least effective green features such as microfilm solar panels embedded in the windowsills, which may be expensive to replace.

#### **Home Depot Foundation greens Habitat for Humanity**

*Greener Buildings - August 4*

Habitat for Humanity launched a \$30 million program, funded by the Home Depot Foundation, to build 5,000 environmentally smart homes over the next five years. Last year, Habitat for Humanity's Partners in Sustainable Building built 260 green homes.

#### **Arizona's first LEED restaurant**

*Franchising.com - August 6*

[Pizza Fusion](#) was awarded LEED Silver and became the first LEED certified restaurant in Arizona. It features recycled glass countertops, soy stained concrete floors, tables made from renewable Kirei wood, eco-friendly paints and 30% recaptured industrial concrete.

#### **World's first Platinum data center**

*Inhabitat - August 4*

Citigroup's new data centre in Frankfurt, Germany, earned LEED Platinum.

Related story: [L.L. Bean's Maine data center earns LEED Silver](#)

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### **Office Depot gets Gold**

*theLEED.com - August 10*

Office Depot reaches LEED Gold for its 20,000 square-foot distribution center with energy savings of 37%, water savings of 40% and 80% reuse of construction waste.

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[More...](#)

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## Events

Our attorneys speak at many conferences and seminars on green building topics.

**Bryan Jackson's** list of recent speaking engagements can be found [here](#).

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## Renewable Energy Update

Allen Matkins has a **NEW** free weekly publication, which is designed for readers who are trying to stay abreast of renewable energy news (including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass). [\*\*SUBSCRIBE!\*\*](#)

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