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Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
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[Obama aims to sweeten retrofit incentives](#)

White House - Feb 3

Obama's Better Buildings Initiative (BBI) aims to improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings by 20% by 2020. If passed, the BBI hopes to save building owners \$40 billion in reduced energy costs, reduced dependence on foreign oil and reduced air pollution. To sweeten the deal, the BBI proposes aggressive incentives including (1) replacing tax deductions for building upgrades with tax credits for owners and REITs who retrofit their buildings; (2) using Small Business Administration loans for energy efficiency retrofits for small businesses; and (3) using a Department of Energy pilot loan guarantee program for energy upgrades to hospitals, schools, etc. The BBI would leave green building codes to local governments, but provide grants to jurisdictions who streamline standards to encourage retrofits and private investment. The BBI issues a challenge to CEOs and University Presidents to make their organizations leaders in saving energy, which will save them money, increase productivity, and make them eligible for public recognition and technical assistance. Finally, the BBI encourages transparency in energy performance and training in energy auditing and building operations. The BBI will coordinate with the Recovery Act and a proposed "HOMESTAR" program designed to encourage families to make energy-saving upgrades to their homes.

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THE 5th ANNUAL
Allen Matkins/CTG/Green Building Insider

Green Building Survey

Our survey results provide the latest information on green and sustainable construction, addressing current attitudes toward green building, its risks, costs, certification processes and trends. The survey was completed by more than 1500 respondents last year. The survey only takes five to ten minutes to complete.

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The results will be presented in the [Green Building Insider](#) newsletter and in the [Green Building Update](#).

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[Ruling may stall cap & trade in CA](#)

Legal Planet - Feb 2

California's landmark "Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006" (AB 32) requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt a "Scoping Plan" as the regulatory pathway for reducing California's green house gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. On January 24, 2011, the Superior Court in San Francisco issued its [Tentative Statement of Decision](#), holding that CARB failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in adopting its Scoping Plan. The parties have 15 days to file objections. If the decision stands, it will enjoin "any implementation of the Scoping Plan" until CARB "has come into complete compliance with its obligation under its certified regulatory program and CEQA." Therefore, the ruling may delay the January 2012 start of California's cap and trade program.

[Study: higher productivity in LEED buildings](#)

Building Green - Jan 10

Michigan State University's preliminary [study](#) indicates that workers in LEED-certified buildings are healthier and more productive. Data on 250 workers who switched from older offices to LEED offices had fewer sick days and increased productivity after the move.

[Green is cheaper, more efficient in 2011](#)

GreenHouse - Jan 7

Green building industry experts are predicting a banner year. The Earth Advantage Institute points to five factors that will elevate the green-building industry in 2011: (1) lower cost to construct green homes; (2) improved sharing of energy information through IT; (3) improved grey water recycling; (4) community energy purchasing; and (5) innovative heating and cooling strategies.

[California bans 100-watt incandescent bulbs](#)

Environmental Leader - Jan 5

California bans the sale of 100-watt incandescent light bulbs one year ahead of the Federal ban set for 2012 under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Bulbs in stock can be sold, but no new bulbs can be ordered by retailers. State legislators say the early ban will halt the sale of more than 10 million bulbs and save consumers as much as \$35 million in electricity bills. The ban will be extended to 75, 60, and 40 watt bulbs over the next two years. Green alternatives to incandescent bulbs include LED bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs.

[USGBC revises LEED certification language](#)

The U.S. Green Building Council - Jan 21

USGBC and the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) released revised agreements now available in LEED Online. USGBC and GBCI sought the opinion of legal counsel from The U.S. General Services Administration and from others who practice construction law, many of whom are part of an informal USGBC legal working group. Revised language now appears in the Terms and Conditions for the Use of LEED Online Version 3, the LEED Project Registration Agreement, and the LEED Project Certification Agreement.

[USGBC appoints new chairman](#)

Business Wire - Jan 25

The USGBC named Mark MacCracken, CEO of CALMAC, as chairman of its Board of Directors for 2011. Also, MacCracken will serve as the Board's Energy Services director.

Related News:

[USGBC Redwood Empire Chapter names new president, treasurer](#)



INLAND EMPIRE

[Preventing solar panel wind uplift](#)

Solar Novus Today - Jan 6

Solis Partners' new LEED Platinum headquarters in Pennsylvania features lightweight cylindrical solar receptors that allow wind to pass through. The solar array has 900 panels with 36,000 tubes.

[USGBC / Green-Building.com's real-life LEED program](#)

PR Web - Jan 26

USGBC -- Northern California partnered with Green-Building.com to offer participants a four-week real-life LEED construction experience and satisfy eligibility requirements to sit for the LEED AP exam.

[Report: BIM helps meet new green building practices](#)

Constructech - Jan 25

Market and regulatory pressures to build green, such as the GSA's requirement that all federal projects meet LEED Gold, has construction companies investing in cost-effective methods to improve green building practices, such as building information modeling (BIM) which was mandated for federally-funded projects in 2007.

Related News:

[Taking steps to develop BIM standards](#)

[Appraisal Institute launches valuation program for green buildings](#)

RIS Media - Jan 26

The Appraisal Institute launched a series of educational courses designed to help real estate appraisers correctly estimate the worth of green and high-performance commercial and residential buildings.

[InterContinental's entire portfolio earns LEED - VP](#)

Green Biz - Jan 24

InterContinental Hotels Group is the first hospitality chain to receive LEED volume precertification (LEED-VP) for all of its existing buildings. Using its Green Engage program the chain is saving about \$90,000 in energy costs per hotel per year. The Green Engage software is available for sale to other hospitality chains seeking LEED-VP or lower energy costs.

[Is NC LEED Silver building an energy hog?](#)

Triple Pundit - Jan 26

The ImaginOn building in Charlotte, N.C., earned LEED Silver in 2005. Designed to use 30% less energy than a similar conventional building, a 2007 study found the building consumed twice as much energy as designed. However, the building received 150,000 more visitors per year than originally stated, which may explain part of the higher energy use. A USGBC-commissioned [study](#) in 2008 found that less than half of all LEED-certified buildings would qualify for an Energy Star rating.

GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS

[California neighborhood earns LEED Platinum](#)

PR Newswire - Jan 25

[Sonoma Mountain Village](#), a planned 200-acre development in Rohnert Park, California designed to be "one of the world's greenest neighborhoods" earned LEED Platinum for Neighborhood Development. Also, the project earned the California Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

[UC Davis' LEED Platinum wine and beer facility](#)

Sacramento Bee - Jan 29

The University of California at Davis opened a \$20 million, LEED Platinum-designated facility that is intended to develop and demonstrate innovations in wine and beer brewing, as well as food processing.

Related News:

[California winery donates \\$3M to UC Davis brewing facility](#)

[La Jolla office building earns LEED-EB Platinum](#)

Enhanced Online News - Jan 25

The Aventine, a Class A office building in La Jolla, California, earned LEED Platinum for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB). The building has undergone 13 major sustainability projects in three years resulting in an annual cost savings of more than \$150,000 per year. This 11-story building with an adjacent six-story building is anticipated to earn \$125,000 in utility rebates each year and has the potential to double that amount.

Related News:

[Company honored for HVAC system at California office's LEED Platinum ceremony](#)

[Sacramento restaurant first in city to earn LEED Silver](#)

World Interior Design Network - Jan 27

Hot Italian, a Sacramento restaurant and retail space, earned LEED Silver and features (1) wood beams from sustainable sources, (2) lights from recycled coffee cans, and (3) low-flow sinks and other energy-efficient appliances.

[MGM Resorts lauded for sustainability](#)

PR Newswire - Jan 7

MGM Resorts International was cited for its "Exceptional Leadership and Advocacy LEED Project" and for "Organizational Excellence" by the USGBC Nevada Chapter. MGM Resorts received the LEED Advocacy award for CityCenter, which, at 18 million square feet, achieved six LEED Gold Certifications - which is the largest environmentally sustainable, mixed-use development in the world.

[Clif Bar's installs largest smart solar array](#)

Jan 5 - San Francisco Business Times

Clif Bar & Co. installed the "largest smart rooftop solar array of any communal building in North America," at its Emeryville headquarters. The 115,000-square-foot building hopes to earn LEED Platinum. The array includes some 2,000 solar panels.

[San Antonio home earns top energy-efficiency rating](#)

KSAT - Jan 28

Builtsmart Homes of San Antonio completed construction of an ultra energy-efficient home that boasts a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) score of -1. The average home rates a HERS score of 100, and a home with very good energy efficiency generally scores 70. The home employs energy-efficient lighting and appliances and uses a solar array on a net metering system to supplement grid energy usage. In addition, the land the house sits on is landscaped to reduce water consumption.

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