

April 30, 2009

National building label proposed

CoStar Group - April 22

U.S. Lawmakers propose a national building label that will measure and disclose the energy performance of commercial properties and homes. The label, which some believe will place value on increased energy efficiency, is included in a draft version of "[The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009](#)." The proposed bill that was released last month by Reps. Henry Waxman of California and Edward Markey of Massachusetts. The Energy and Commerce Committee is holding hearings on the bill and expects a vote before Memorial Day.

Green Building Focus

Study: financial viability of Living Buildings

Cascadia Region Green Building Council - April 27

A study by the Cascadia Region Green Building Council looks at the return on investment (ROI) for developing Living Buildings. The purpose of the study is to provide up-to-date information on the incremental cost between LEED Gold buildings and Living Buildings, and answer questions regarding the anticipated payback. As with many ROI calculations, the payback improves if the owner has a holistic perspective and includes operating costs in addition to one-time project costs over a longer time horizon. Building scale, the location's climate and energy costs, and the building use have significant impacts on the ROI's of green buildings.

\$2.7 B in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grants

U.S. Department of Energy - April 15

The U.S. Department of Energy has made available over \$2.7 billion in Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. These grants must be applied for as soon as possible, but no later than June 25, 2009. Grants are available to U.S. states, territories, local governments and Indian tribes to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency. To see a list of entities eligible for grants and allocation amounts, [click here](#). To download a copy of the Funding Opportunity Announcement, which contains complete information for grantees on the Program and the application process, [click here](#). Details regarding eligible activities are contained in the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) including, but not limited to, the following list, [click here](#).

LEED-AP passes 100,000 mark

Sustainable Industries - April 22

According to the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), more than 101,000 green building professionals have earned the LEED Accredited Professional (AP) credential. Certifications are expected to increase following the release of two new LEED credentials: the Green Associate for allied professions, new green builders, and graduating students; and a specialized credential for Green Building Operations & Maintenance. In addition, more than 20,000 commercial projects have registered for, or completed, LEED certification.

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LEED 2009 to include regional credits

USGBC - April 24

According to the USGBC, the 2009 version of the LEED program will include regional credits to address environmental priorities for buildings in different locations. "Regionally specific credits give LEED a way to directly respond to diverse, regionally grounded issues," said Brendan Owens, vice president of technical development at USGBC.

Related: [USGBC develops new energy-efficient standards: LEED Version 3](#)

\$350M to green Western Govt. Buildings

GlobeSt.com - April 27

More than \$350 million will be spent on "High Performance Green Building Modernizations" for 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, the Edith Green Federal Building in Portland, and two buildings in Seattle as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Spending Plan. The money is coming from the \$5.5 billion that the General Services Administration received to help stimulate the economy.

Miami pushes smart meters

Miami Herald - April 21

Every home in Miami-Dade County will soon have a "smart meter" to allow customers to monitor energy usage to reduce electric bills. The county will also install solar panels on educational buildings and implement 300 new plug-in utility vehicles. The project will cost Florida Power & Light about \$200 million. Half of the money could qualify for funding from the federal stimulus package with the remainder paid for by utility customers. The initiative will create an estimated 700 to 1,000 jobs over the next two years. "Just installing the meters will require a lot of workers," Olnick said. The effort is so huge that for two years, a semi-trailer truck will need to arrive daily filled with meters.

LEED project saves county \$250,000

Mydesert.com - April 22

Riverside County announced a savings of nearly \$250,000 due to the LEED design strategies for its new sheriff's station in Palm Desert. At a cost of \$25.1 million, it is believed to be the first LEED certified law enforcement facility in California. Applying green building principals, officials announced savings of \$ 51,742 in energy-efficiency, \$15,943 in renewable energy, \$1,530 in reducing water usage, and \$168,000 for a one-time rebate for participating in Southern California Edison's "Savings By Design" program.

NY unveils building retrofit initiative

Sustainable Business - April 23

New York City announced comprehensive legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing government, commercial and residential buildings. The plan consists of four pieces of legislation and two PlaNYC programs to achieve carbon reductions, train workers for 19,000 green construction jobs, and finance energy-saving improvements for consumers through \$16 million in federal stimulus funds.

California's new 'Low Carbon Fuel Standard'

Sustainable Business - April 24

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently approved Low Carbon Fuel Standards to reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions by 10% by 2020. The new regulation boosts the market for alternative-fuel vehicles to achieve 16 million tons of greenhouse gas reductions by 2020. At least 11 other states are weighing similar rules, while President Obama calls for a nationwide low-carbon fuel standard.

Notable green building projects...

[McDonald's HQ earns LEED Platinum](#)

Environmental Leader - April 22

McDonald's global headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, earned LEED Platinum certification. Back in 1988, the HQ was built with the intention to construct a sustainable building. Many of the original features include an open office environment with generous access to daylight, space- and land-saving underground parking and landscaping with native plants. In addition, McDonald's recycling and waste programs, 'green' vehicle parking designations and the recapturing of rainwater for irrigation are just some of the ideas implemented over the years which contributed to the LEED Platinum certification.

[First LEED certified floating building](#)

Forever Resorts - April 15

Scottsdale-based [Forever Resorts](#) announced the development of the first LEED certified floating green building at Nevada's [Cottonwood Cove Resort & Marina](#). More details on the building will be unveiled during the Green Marina Launch on May 29, 2009. The project is scheduled for completion by summer 2009. The floating eco-friendly structure will feature sustainable modular construction and energy-efficient materials, fixtures and operations practices.

[First NAHB Emerald-certified home](#)

RealEstateRama - April 23

A Pennsylvania home built by RGB Custom Homes has captured the first Emerald level certification for the NAHB Green Program. Emerald is the highest level of certification a home can achieve when scored to the National Green Building Standard rating system. Builder Robert G. Brown of RGB Custom Homes says the 1,900 square foot home will serve as a model home to showcase RGB's full range of green options.

[First NAHB green community certified](#)

Sustainable Industries - April 14

Village in Burns Harbor is the first green community to be certified under the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) National Green Standard. The community is located on 60 acres of old parking lots, abandoned gas stations and unused farm land in northwest Indiana. The green neighborhood will include a mix of 265 single-family, semi-detached and multifamily homes priced between \$180,000 and \$350,000. This green community features higher density development, multiple access points, pedestrian-oriented streets, lower parking ratios and proximity to mass transit options.

[Citi first with over 100 LEED branches](#)

USGBC - April 22

Citi announced that it is the first company in the world to achieve LEED certification for more than 100 of its retail branches. Through the USGBC's Portfolio Program, 114 "green" CitiFinancial branches were certified in 34 states. Branches are designed and built in accordance with a prototype, and each will achieve LEED certification using the same or similar environmentally friendly features.

[Citi data center earns LEED Platinum](#)

Commercial Property News - April 24

Citi's Frankfurt, Germany data center earned a LEED Platinum rating. It is the first data center to be rated Platinum. Other major Citi projects that have received some level of LEED certification include data centers in Singapore and Georgetown, Texas, two Citi office parks in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and a 15-story skyscraper in Queens, N.Y.

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