

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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[NAHB competes with LEED](#)

CoStar Group - Feb 2

The National Association of Homebuilders' new green building standard for residential properties was approved by the American National Standards Institute, paving the way for its release. The certification system, called the National Green Building Standard (NAHB), covers single-family homes and multifamily apartment and condo buildings, areas where the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC's) LEED rating system is established but not yet dominant. It will compete directly with LEED for Homes, a similar program that was released last year.

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Green Building Focus

[Green building creates jobs that save energy, money](#)

Realty Times - Feb 2

Newly-released studies represent some positive news for the U.S. economy. These studies show, among other things, that consumers are more inclined to buy green and that a substantial investment in green building projects could directly lead to millions of new jobs. In light of these facts, economic experts from both sides of the aisle are calling for a recovery plan focused on green jobs and infrastructure.

[Study dispels 'green' building cost myths](#)

Nashville Business Journal - Jan 30

A California study, sponsored by the USGBC and other real estate and architectural groups, asserted that most developers estimate the costs of constructing LEED-certified buildings to be 10 to 15 percent higher than conventional buildings. Although the actual costs are hard to pinpoint, most studies have found that the actual premium for constructing LEED-certified buildings is much lower and that the financial savings over the life of a LEED-certified building (as opposed to a non-LEED certified building) far outweigh such increased upfront cost.

LEED projects doubled in 2008

Building Design & Construction - Jan 26

Sustainable real estate projects set in motion in the past few years are coming to completion, a trend that is likely to accelerate as the year progresses despite troubles in the economy. Projects include prominent office towers, retail stores, hospitals, a basketball arena and an FBI field office. These projects have all achieved LEED certification, the government's Energy Star label, or other green acknowledgments.

Portland's green "feebates" program

Building Green - Feb 1

Portland, Oregon, has proposed a far-reaching green building program that would be the first of its kind in the country. The program will assess

About Allen Matkins

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, founded in 1977, is a

development fees against commercial and multi-family projects constructed merely to code and use those fees to finance rebates and other incentives for higher performing commercial and multi-family projects. Also, the program will set performance targets for homes certified through LEED for Homes or Earth Advantage programs and, if such performance targets are not met, will institute feebate program similar to that proposed for commercial and multi-family projects.

Green building -- a key to economic recovery

US Green Building Council - Jan 28

The USGBC believes that green buildings' ability to help homeowners and businesses cut costs, reduce the need to rely on foreign energy sources, and provide green jobs will change the way people view the building industry. "As research comes in from diverse sources examining the interest in green buildings among a wide range of Americans, the numbers keep painting the same picture," said Rick Fedrizzi, president of the USGBC. Among the reports is Turner Construction Company's Green Building Barometer, which found that three-quarters of those involved in commercial property said the credit crunch will not discourage them from building green.

PG&E's 'climate-neutral' program

Press Democrat - Feb 2

M.A. Silva Corks USA joined a number of North Bay businesses that are opting to pay extra on their utility bills to "zero out" the greenhouse-gas emissions attributed to their operations. The Santa Rosa-based wine closure importer is participating in Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s ClimateSmart program. Launched in 2007, the program allows businesses and customers to make tax-deductible contributions into a fund the utility manages for projects that keep greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide from fermenting, methane from livestock manure from escaping or establishes programs that pull the gases from the atmosphere, such as forest preservation or restoration.

Notable green building projects...

Gottfried's LEED for homes score

Building Green - Feb 2

USGBC co-founder David Gottfried has built a very green house. The 1,460 square foot house in Oakland, California, has earned 106.5 points out of a possible 136 in USGBC's LEED for Homes rating system.

LEED platinum, earthquake-safe town center

Interior Design.net - Jan 20

In Portola Valley, California, residents cope with a major engineering problem: Their town center was built directly on top of the San Andreas Fault. Thanks to Siegel & Strain Architects and Goring & Straja Architects, the new town center is both safe and green -- and expected to achieve LEED Platinum.

Industrial building is certified LEED silver

Daily Journal of Commerce - Feb 2

The 573,000-square-foot Rivergate Corporate Center in Portland, Oregon, has become the largest speculative industrial building in the

state to earn LEED silver certification. The project, a joint partnership between Trammell Crow and the Multi-Employer Property Trust, is part of a six-building, 2.4-million-square-foot project spanning 113 acres. "Our goal is that [Rivergate] raises the awareness of LEED certification among industrial facilities so that more of these local facilities can begin to contribute to the preservation of our environment," said Steve Wells, senior managing director of Trammell Crow's Portland Business Unit.

First gold LEED-precertified high-rise in Dallas

Dallas Business Journal - Jan 30

Seventeen McKinney, an office building under construction in Uptown Dallas, has secured the title of the first gold LEED-precertified high-rise office building in the Dallas area. The USGBC precertified the building, which is slated for completion in the spring of 2010.

Largest LEED Silver industrial building in Georgia

CoStar Group - Jan 28

IDI recently received Silver LEED certification from the USGBC for its newly built 744,331-square-foot industrial facility, WestPoint at Riverside, in Lithia Springs, Georgia. This makes WestPoint at Riverside the largest industrial building in Georgia to receive Silver certification.

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