

April 8, 2009

Empire State Building's Green Renovation

The Business Insider - April 6

The Empire State Building is planning a [\\$20 million 18 month renovation](#) in hopes of obtaining an "Energy Star" rating of 90 from the EPA, and a LEED Gold rating from the USGBC. In order to cut energy use by 40%, all 6,500 windows will be replaced with triple glazed glass, radiators will be insulated, air conditioners will be modernized, and occupancy sensors will be installed. The green renovations are part of a larger \$600 million renovation of the building which will take 5 years.

Green Building Focus

Study: Green buildings = premium rents

Business Green - April 1

A clear link between buildings with a high Energy Star rating and buildings with high rental premiums was revealed by a new study. Commissioned by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the study found that buildings with an Energy Star certificate attracted rental premiums of 3% per sq ft compared with "non-green buildings" of the same size, location and function. When rental concessions were removed from the equation the premium was higher still with Energy Star buildings attracting a premium of more than 6%. In addition, green buildings were even more attractive to buyers, securing a premium of around 16% when sold.

'Green' banks rising despite economic crisis

New York Times - April 6

As many banks caught in the collapse of the housing market are struggling to stay alive, one bank is moving boldly in the other direction. E3bank joins a small but growing number of green banks. E3bank envisions having loan officers accredited by the USGBC as experts in its LEED ratings program. Such loan officers would be empowered to customize loans and lines of credit to meet the needs of commercial and residential borrowers developing green projects.

ASHRAE to launch building rating label

Construction Week - April 6

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has developed a rating label for buildings, which it will launch at its annual meeting in June 2009. The rating label was developed in collaboration with the EPA's Energy Star program and is designed to expand the Energy Star program and prepare the industry for possible mandatory energy reporting.

Pittsburgh leads in sustainable builds

New York Times - March 31

Pittsburgh, which has lost half its population since 1950, has left its steel industry past and has become the green headquarters for many large corporations. Pittsburgh has positioned itself at the forefront of the movement to conserve and green existing structures and clean up contaminated industrial "brownfields."

Green real estate education booms

The Daily Green - April 1

The battered real estate market has maintained a bright spot: the Green Real Estate Education (GREE) has certified real estate professionals in 23 months, making it the fastest growing "green certification" education program in the real estate industry. As green real estate continues to be hot, many realtors are trying to boost their green skill sets to better compete in a tight economy.

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Notable green building projects...

[Federal Building to get \\$51 million green retrofit](#)

Media General - April 1

Roanoke's Poff Federal Building in Virginia will receive \$51 million from the economic stimulus bill. The stimulus bill designated \$750 million to construct or renovate federal buildings and courthouses. The money is intended to make buildings more energy efficient by transforming them into high-performance green buildings. Senator Warner indicated that this project supports the expansion of Virginia's green building industry, which is important for Virginia's longer term economic vitality.

[Sarasota home achieves LEED-Platinum](#)

Herald Tribune - March 31

Carlson Studio Architects, a Sarasota-based green design firm, has achieved the LEED for Homes-Platinum certification for a house it designed for the Tradition master-planned community.

[First Alabama project to earn LEED certification](#)

Birmingham Business Journal - March 30

The Lakeshore Foundation Housing Facility in Homewood, Alabama, will be the first renovated project in Alabama to earn LEED certification.

[Tennessee project earns LEED-EB Gold](#)

PR Newswire - April 1

The state of Tennessee now has a Gold LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) certified building – the Caterpillar Financial Center in Nashville. Not only is this the state's first LEED-EB certified building, it is also the first Caterpillar building to receive this certification.

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