

Green Building Update

an Allen Matkins
market intelligence
publication

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June 30, 2009

U.S. House Passes Climate Change Bill

Reuters - June 26

On Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that could significantly change the way Americans use and produce energy. The American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) now moves to the Senate where further changes are expected. Key ACES provisions include (1) 20% of the electricity produced by utilities coming from renewable energy sources and efficiency by 2020; (2) \$90 billion invested in renewable energy technology, \$60 billion in carbon sequestration, \$20 billion in electric or similar vehicles, and \$20 billion in basic R&D; (3) energy-saving standards for buildings, appliances, and industry; (4) 17% carbon emission reductions by 2020 and 80% by 2050 compared to 2005 levels; (5) tropical deforestation prevention; (6) consumer protection from energy price increases; (7) a cap & trade and offsets scheme; and (8) expanded electric transmission line siting authority by the federal government. The EPA estimates that the carbon emission reductions required by ACES will cost American families 22 cents to 30 cents per day. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy concluded ACES' energy provisions could save U.S. households up to \$1,050 cumulatively and produce more than 300,000 jobs by 2020.

Green Building Focus

Study: Green Retrofits Represent a \$400B Market

Environmental Leader - June 18

The potential market for major green renovations in the commercial building sector could reach \$400 billion, according to a new study by Pike Research. The study, [Energy Efficiency Retrofits for Commercial and Public Buildings](#), indicates that most major projects will not be driven by cost savings, but instead will be initiated to meet broader policy and business objectives such as lower carbon footprints, higher employee productivity, and higher property values.

LEED Coming Soon for Data Centers

Reuters - June 17

The USGBC may soon begin rating data centers under the LEED rating system. LEED's current building

standard is able to certify data centers, but no unique qualities of data centers are taken into account when they are rated. Existing criteria for energy-efficient data centers have been created by groups such as ASHRAE and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. If USGBC adopts a LEED program for data centers, experts predict that the market will react like it has for commercial buildings: green data centers may command higher rents and resale values.

Green Building Best Practices Webinar Series

PRWeb - June 15

WPL Publishing's four-part webinar series, featuring several speakers including Allen Matkins' Bryan Jackson and Mike Cathcart, will discuss the latest changes in the USGBC's LEED 2009 certification program, industry trends and recent changes in the law affecting green building. The series will run through July 22, 2009.

USCM and USGBC Urge Green Schools Legislation

USGBC - June 19

The USGBC and U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) are urging Congress to commit additional research funding to evaluating the environmental, economic and health benefits of green schools. USCM endorsed the recent passage of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act, which authorizes billions of dollars to support school repairs, renovations and modernization projects nationwide.

For more information, including USGBC's LEED for Schools Green Building Rating System, visit

www.buildgreenschools.org.

Home Builders Obtain NAHB Green Certification

Property Wire - June 14

More than 3,100 people in the home-building industry have earned NAHB's Certified Green Professional educational designation and more than 200 single family homes, projects and developments in 43 states have received NAHB's National Green Building Certification.

USGBC Urges Congressional Action on Green Homes Bill

Environmental Leader - June 16

The USGBC urged Congress to pass the GREEN Act of 2009 so homeowners could build and remodel their homes to save energy costs and reduce environmental impacts. Buildings account for 40% of U.S. energy consumption and 39% of CO2 emissions, according to the USGBC. Greater building efficiency can meet

85% of future U.S. demand for energy. A national commitment to green building has the potential of generating 2.5 million U.S. jobs.

The DOE Funded 14 State Energy Programs

U.S. Department of Energy - June 25

The Department of Energy provided 14 states with \$358 million for energy programs. Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Washington will soon receive grants and loans to stimulate green job creation and increase energy independence by supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and alternative fuel technologies. The \$90.4 million awarded to California will jumpstart green jobs training and provide local governments with funding to establishing renewable energy financing districts under California's AB 811 statute. Property owners in AB 811 districts can receive low-interest financing for renewable energy fixtures and weatherization work.

USGBC Adds Sustainable Food Strategy to LEED

Examiner - June 21

USGBC's LEED rating system will include an energy reduction component called Sustainable Food. Building owners and managers can now gain credit towards LEED certification by using sustainably harvested foods certified by pre-approved organizations. Under the system, LEED points can be earned for foods that are both certified and locally harvested.

San Mateo County Holding Green Building Workshops

Coastsider - June 16

On June 30 and July 28, 2009, San Mateo County will hold green building workshops to discuss possible revisions to current regulations, include the addition of new building types and green building standards. The County's Green Building Task Force and planning and building departments will sponsor the workshops.

Notable green building projects...

[Santa Clara Data Center Earns LEED Gold](#)

Global St. - June 16

The USGBC issued LEED-CI Gold to a [Digital Realty Trust](#) data center in Santa Clara, California. The facility uses HVAC economizers to capture low-temperature outdoor air.

[California's Clarum Homes, Earns LEED Gold](#)

Renewable Energy World - June 12

Clarum Homes' new Danville, California community earned LEED Gold rating for ten zero-energy homes. The homes are outfitted with Sharp solar power systems between 3.8 and 5kWs plus other energy efficient technologies.

[Shelby County Gets First LEED Certified Building](#)

USGBC Memphis - June 11

Shelby County, Tennessee's Independent Bank Germantown received a LEED Silver Rating.

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Events

Our attorneys speak at many conferences and seminars on green building topics. The upcoming events are below.

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

[Change Order Basics](#)

July 14 - CSI WEBINAR

[Dealing with The New Green Building Laws](#)

July 22 - WPL WEBINAR

Please [let us know](#) if you will be attending!

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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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