

May 22, 2009

Ten ways to use recovery funds for green building

USGBC - May 13

The USGBC has published its "[Top 10 Ways to Use Recovery Funds for Green Building](#)." From investing in green schools and home energy retrofit programs to creating a revolving loan fund, the list can be used by governments from cities, counties and states to make the best use of federal economic recovery funding.

Green Building Focus

Report: Green buildings may save \$500 B by 2030

PennEnvironment - May 13

According to a new report by PennEnvironment, a comprehensive plan to make buildings more efficient could save enough energy by 2030 to power all of the nation's cars, homes and businesses for a year and a half, while saving Americans more than \$500 billion. The report offers a preview of what Pennsylvania could achieve by adopting green building policies. [Click here](#) for more information.

GRC's new Green Stimulus Guide

Architectural Record - May 18

The Green Research Council published its Green Stimulus Guide to green funding opportunities for developers under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Green Stimulus Guide provides information about the Act and offers links to information regarding funding applications.

New LEED HC for hospitals

Michigan Business Review - May 14

Later this year, the USGBC will launch LEED HC for hospitals and health care facilities. LEED HC will focus on design issues and conditions specific to the health care industry while eliminating inapplicable factors. LEED HC examines energy, water, staff uses, indoor environmental quality differently than other LEED rating systems.

LEED ND open for public comment

USGBC - May 18

The second public comment period is open for [LEED for Neighborhood Development](#). The comment period started May 1st and will close June 14. The [LEED for Neighborhood Development](#) rating system integrates the principles of smart growth, new urbanism and green building into the first national rating system for neighborhood design. The program is the result of a collaboration among USGBC, the Congress for the New Urbanism, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

LEED 2009 and regional priority credits

USGBC - May 18

LEED 2009 is a reorganization of the LEED rating systems along with several key advancements: (i) existing credits and prerequisites have been harmonized to create consistency across rating systems; (ii) credits have been reweighted to give more value to the things that have the greatest impact on reducing CO2 emissions and increasing energy efficiency; and (iii) regionally specific environmental issues have been incorporated.

Green Building Summit: June 11, 2009

GreenTech Media - May 18

GreenTech Media and SRI International announce the Green Building Summit, which will be held on June 11, 2009 in Menlo Park, California. The summit is a one-day symposium on the companies and people shaping the green building industry. Sessions will include opinions from architects and builders, debates between policy makers and investors, and presentations from rapidly growing startups.

Green costs and LEED certification

Environmental Leader - May 13

Many developers are working towards sustainable building practices. However, some are not seeking LEED certification because of the cost, according to John Zinner, a California-based LEED project manager. Mr. Zinner says green design and certification costs could range between \$40,000 to \$200,000, depending on the size of the project. Despite the additional costs, however, studies have shown that certified buildings lease up quicker, command more rent, and sell for substantially more than non-certified buildings.

Wales' national green building standard

Reuters - May 13

Wales is first in the U.K. to set a national green building standard for the reduction of carbon emissions, energy efficiency, decreased water consumption and the use of more sustainable materials in new buildings. The policy will take effect September 1, 2009. Among other things, the policy will mandate energy efficiency measures be taken in constructing new homes in order to cut the dwellings' carbon emissions by 31% from current building requirements.

Notable green building projects...

'NREL to be the greenest office building in the world'

Bizjournals - May 7

Touted as the "greenest office building in the world", the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) new research support building has broken ground in Golden, Colorado. The \$64 million structure will house 700 employees and is scheduled to be completed in 2010. The building will exceed LEED Platinum certification by putting electricity back on the grid, by using natural ventilation, and by using by wind, solar and biofuels power.

U.S. military installation in Virginia earns LEED Platinum

Bizjournals - May 12

The Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center in Virginia is the first U.S. military installation to earn a LEED platinum rating. Bethesda-based Clark Realty Capital and the Army forged a public-private partnership to develop, rehabilitate, and construct 2,070 homes on 576 acres of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County.

2010 Winter Olympics to feature LEED buildings

Architectural Record - May 5

Vancouver, B.C., has decided to follow the lead of Beijing and London and focus on sustainable building for the 2010 Winter Olympics Athlete's Village. A 30,000-square-foot community center will be certified LEED platinum, and all 16 residential buildings in the 1.4-million-square-foot athlete's village will meet the LEED gold standard. Green features include rainwater harvesting, a sewer-heat recovery system, green roofs; low-VOC materials, and recycled materials.

Great River Energy's headquarters earns LEED platinum

Contractor Mag - May 8

Great River Energy's headquarters in Maple Grove Minnesota is the first commercial building in the state to receive the USGBC's LEED Platinum certification. The 166,000-sq.ft. four-story building consumes approximately 50% less energy than Minnesota code requirements, and was completed in April 2008 and certified LEED Platinum in September 2008.

First LEED art museum in New York

PR Newswire - May 11

The Burchfield Penney Art Center at Buffalo State College announced that it has become the first LEED certified art museum in the State of New York. The \$33 million center is approximately 65,000 sq. ft. in size and includes exhibition galleries, art storage and support spaces, classrooms, a lecture hall, offices, a cafe, a reception space and a retail shop. The facility's design incorporates innovative temperature and humidity control systems, which maintain a constant environment to protect valuable artwork.

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