

May 7, 2009

## **Hospitals greening to save costs**

*Market Watch - April 22*

A growing number of hospitals are embracing "green designs and practices" as a way to combat costs and improve the health of patients, employees and communities. While the number of green hospitals remains low, many facilities embrace a future in which patient stays are shorter, more pleasant and maybe even less expensive. A [Green Guide for Health Care Toolkit](#) is available for health providers to develop and implement sustainable practices. The [latest hospital to receive LEED certification](#) is the [Le Bonheur hospital](#) in Memphis.

## **Green Building Focus**

### **Survey: N.Y. lags in green building certification**

*The New York Observer - April 30*

The most recent issue of the Center for Urban Future pointed to a [survey](#) of the total number of fully operational LEED-certified buildings in cities around the country. The survey revealed that New York ranks sixth, with 41 LEED projects, behind Chicago (70), Portland (63), Seattle (55), Washington (47) and San Francisco (44). However, if the square footage of LEED certified buildings was taken into account, New York would rank much higher.

Related: [Mayor Bloomberg pushes energy efficiency laws for NY buildings](#)

### **Report: green subsidies urged**

*WBCSD - April 30*

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) cites green building paybacks of over \$300 billion per year. However, a WBCSD report concludes that government subsidies would allow even greater energy efficiencies in new and existing buildings. With subsidies, the report claims that by 2050, buildings could cut energy equal to the amount of energy currently used by the transportation industry worldwide.

## **L.A.'s CleanTech corridor**

*L.A. Times - April 27*

L.A. Mayor Villaraigosa envisions a green CleanTech manufacturing corridor east of downtown. Several companies are working to get the work done, including Shangri-La Construction, a green construction company. The Mayor pledged to transform L.A. into "the greenest and cleanest big city in the nation," drawing more than a third of its electrical power from renewable sources by 2020. The CleanTech corridor would be an integral part of the Mayor's pledge. The Mayor's most intensive push has been for an Italian rail manufacturer, AnsaldoBreda, which is angling for a \$300-million rail car construction contract with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. If it secures the MTA contract, AnsaldoBreda has pledged to build a \$70-million manufacturing facility in the CleanTech corridor. More than 100 companies have expressed interest in the CleanTech corridor.

## **The 'greening' of U.S. hotels**

Mercury News - April 24

Nationwide, 18 hotels have earned LEED certification; of those, six are in California. The most ambitious hoteliers have launched much more innovative programs. Seeking a niche, but also a clean conscience, hotels are adopting a range of environmentally friendly design elements, from low-flow toilets to wall insulation made of recycled denim.

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## **Guild presents four green home programs**

*Build It Green - May 4*

The Green Building Professionals Guild plans home performance seminars in San Francisco's South Bay, East Bay, North Bay and in the city of San Francisco proper. These seminars will explore cutting-edge green building practices and products and facilitate networking of green building professionals. Click [here](#) for details.

## **USBGC to certify communities with LEED-ND**

*REJournals - April 27*

As the USGBC begins certifying entire communities through its new LEED-Neighborhood Development program, certification, its impact on the macrocosmic issues of community planning and the individual rights of property owners merits further exploration.

## **Autodesk's sustainable design software**

*Arch Daily - May 1*

Autodesk rolled out its new Ecotect Analysis 2010 software program and the free Autodesk Guide to Sustainable Design. Autodesk Ecotect Analysis 2010 provides architects and engineers with a range of simulation and analysis tools. The software helps users understand how environmental factors -- such as solar, thermal, shading, lighting and airflow, will affect building performance. This tool looks at six different design phases: requirements development, conceptualization, design, implementation docs, construction, and own/operate/sell.

## **Singapore to green certify 80% of its buildings**

*ABC News - April 30*

Singapore unveiled a plan to certify 80% of its buildings as environmentally green by 2030. The plan, launched by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), will cause a majority of the city's building to be "green marks" rated. The BCA hopes to generate \$1.5 billion in energy cost savings annually.

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### **Notable green building projects...**

#### **Rock Row: L.A.'s first sustainable-affordable subdivision**

*The Moment Blog - April 30*

Rock Row (located in the L.A.'s Eagle Rock neighborhood) will be Los Angeles' first sustainable-affordable subdivision. Inspired by a new city ordinance that encourages the development of multiple, sustainable single-family homes on small lots. Rock Row will incorporate features like bamboo flooring, white roofs, durable materials, drought-resistant plantings, and energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

#### **Tower Oaks - DC's first LEED platinum building**

*Washington Business Journal - April 27*

The Tower Oaks building in Rockville, is the first "ground-up" office building in the Washington D.C. region to earn a LEED platinum rating. Also, the Louis Dreyfus building has won a preliminary LEED platinum rating, but has yet to achieve a final, official LEED designation. The Tower Oaks building, co-developed by Lerner Enterprises, was designed by Kishimoto.Gordon.Dalaya PC.

## [Green churches: spiritual and financial reasons](#)

*mlive.com* - April 18

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Caring for the earth and reducing energy expenses are two of the reasons some Michigan-area churches are focusing on going green. For example, Unity of Kalamazoo, a spiritual community that draws on many religious traditions, has made a series of moves toward going green. Also, many U.S. churches are going green to reduce costs.

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