

Green Building Update

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publication

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Economic stimulus to include investing in green building

GreenBiz - Dec 9

A plan for reviving the U.S. economy calls for an investment of \$500 billion over 10 years on a range of energy, education, construction, building and manufacturing programs that would create 5 million jobs. The New Apollo Program is the creation of the Apollo Alliance, a coalition of business, labor, environmental and community leaders promoting clean energy, energy efficiency and green jobs. The plan recommends cutting energy use in existing buildings by 30 percent by 2025, doubling the national investment in clean tech R&D, and creating a new carbon trading system.

Green Building Focus

Green-building caucus under construction

Politico - Dec 9

The newly formed High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus is expected to be a growing voice in next year's energy debate on Capitol Hill. The group will focus on increasing energy efficiency and lowering the carbon footprint of buildings. Some caucus members are already considering introducing green-building legislation that experts say could include tax incentives and implementation of a smart-grid system. "This is a largely bipartisan issue," said a spokesperson for Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-Mo), one of the caucus members. "All options are on the table."

Incoming HUD Secretary has history of building green

Chicago Sun Times - Dec 13

President-elect Barack Obama announced that he will nominate Shaun Donovan, currently New York City Commissioner of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Many of the new affordable housing projects during Donovan's tenure at HPD have included LEED green building certifications. Donovan served at HUD during the Clinton Administration, and also worked in both the business and non-profit sectors where he helped make responsible homeownership and access to affordable housing a reality for many American families.

Portland turns to green building despite economy

Daily Journal of Commerce - Dec 5

Portland has opened up the public comment period on a proposed green building policy intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maximize energy efficiency and cost savings, decrease consumption of potable water, increase on-site storm water management and improve indoor environmental quality. Despite tough economic times, many think the proposed policy will pay long-term dividends. "We look at markets over long periods of time," said Michelle Gila of Roots Realty. Gila, who worked on a stakeholders' committee to help form the policy, said the policy will contribute to Portland's "long-term economic stability and development in

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green collar jobs, which will have a positive effect on [the] region.”

Not all ‘green’ buildings are healthy buildings

Daily Commercial News and Construction Record - Dec 10

“Not all green buildings have good indoor air quality,” Elia Sterling, president of Theodor Sterling Associates of Vancouver told delegates to the Construction Solutions Conference, many of them contractors or architects. LEED certification is a points-based system, but it is up to builders and designers to decide which particular points they choose to pursue when seeking certification. “As a result, it is possible for a building to be LEED certified without actually verifying that air quality objectives have been met,” Sterling explained. “That, combined with the fact that no re-certification is required after a building is initially certified as a LEED-accredited building, lends itself to a situation that could result in poor indoor air quality.”

Sureties unclear about D.C. green building act

Washington Business Journal - Dec 12

Under the 2006 Green Building Act in D.C., if a project does not meet the strict green requirements, the city would receive money from a performance bond that has to be posted for the project in an amount of up to 4 percent of the building costs, or \$3 million. The money would be paid into a new city green building fund aimed at helping implement the legislation. But the bonding mandate has surety companies wondering whether the building owners, the contractors or the designers must provide the performance bond, therefore bearing the direct risk of noncompliance.

Deal launches expansion into green building trend

Atlanta Business Chronicle - Dec 5

[Jamestown Properties](#) has acquired the small Atlanta developer [Green Street Properties](#) LLC to lead an anticipated “green development” trend in the United States. Jamestown, the Atlanta-based firm that raises capital from German investors, will use Green Street Properties to expand its “green building” consulting and environmentally conscious development on a national basis.

Notable green building projects...

LEED platinum hangar now open

USA Today - Dec 15

A new \$17 million hangar at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, Calif., is powered by rooftop solar panels that can provide enough electricity for lights, forklifts and tow vehicles. The 60,000-square-foot facility, operated by Avjet, has been given LEED Platinum status.

Honda data center seeks LEED Silver

Data Center Journal - Dec 9

Honda has invested \$25 million in its “green,” Longmont, Colorado data center, making it the company’s first LEED Silver certified data center in the country. With its US sales falling almost 32 percent in November, compared to record-setting November 2007 numbers, Honda expects its commitment to “greening” its IT infrastructure will yield lower operating costs. The 61,000-square-foot Longmont data center, is just one of five

new green buildings certified by the USGBC's LEED standards this year as part of Honda's efforts to further reduce the environmental impact of Honda's operations and products in the US.

[PepsiCo's Chicago headquarters earns LEED silver](#)

PepsiCo - Dec 10

PepsiCo's Chicago office announced that its downtown corporate plaza was certified LEED Silver. The project reduced energy use by 10 percent in less than a year, cutting water to 37 percent below Energy Policy Act performance standards, and eliminating almost 226 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions through energy saving programs. "Our LEED certification is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to the passion of our employees who created a 'Green Team' devoted to making environmental responsibility an integral part of our corporate culture," said Jim Lynch, a senior vice president with the company.

[Mass Mutual headquarters seeks LEED-EB certification](#)

Mass Mutual - Dec 9

Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company announced that it is applying for LEED-Existing Building certification for its headquarters in Springfield, Mass. This is approximately a year-long process that includes replacing more than 500 plumbing fixtures and implementing more efficient lighting to make the 1.4 million square foot headquarters truly green. "The LEED-EB certification reinforces a long tradition at MassMutual to reduce our environmental footprint," said Ricky Swaye, corporate vice president with the company.

[RainTube innovation used in LEED platinum home](#)

GLI Systems - Dec 15

[GLI Systems Inc.](#) of Jacksonville, Oregon, maker of sustainable RainTube rain water control products, announced completion of an installation in the first Platinum Level LEED Certified home in Houston, TX. One of the projects many "green" features is a rain water harvesting system capable of providing all the water needs of the home.