

Green Building Update

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Green buildings expected to lead policy agendas in 2009

GreenTech Media - Dec 31

Green buildings have not received the attention or acclamation of the solar, wind or biofuel industries. However, that is beginning to change given the realities of how energy is consumed in the U.S. Buildings, after all, consume about 39 percent of all of the energy in the U.S and construction takes up another 12 percent. With the cost of building structures to LEED standards trending down, the payoffs to owners for building green is increasing. Further, with the election of an administration friendly to the green building cause, green building is poised in 2009 to potentially repeat its break-out performance of 2008.

Green Building Focus

CoStar's top-ten sustainable building stories for 2008

CoStar Group - Dec 30

2008 was the year that green buildings finally legitimized themselves in the commercial real estate industry. In a year where little else went right in the real estate industry, green buildings shined, according to CoStar, which has compiled a list of the top-10 sustainable building stories of 2008. Rather than run from the economy, green building advocates dug in and pitched the financial benefits of sustainability and energy efficiency. The strategy worked, and experts are predicting another robust year for green buildings in 2009. The 2008 top-10 list falls mostly outside the industry, underscoring how the green-building trend has blurred its boundaries and intersected with other sectors such as government, manufacturing, engineering and insurance.

Updating green building codes – not an easy task

Sustainable Industries - Dec 29

Building codes across the country are undergoing a "green" sea change. Cities are updating building codes to incorporate green building standards. But updating building codes is not an easy task. In addition to minding potential conflicts with state and federal law, the lack of resources in many municipalities has made for a piecemeal approach. Many larger cities are leading the trend by incorporating green building standards into their building codes while many smaller municipalities are waiting for the adoption of uniform building codes that can be more easily incorporated into local codes. Illustrating the difficulty of coordinating local standards with federal and state standards, in Albuquerque, N.M., a new green building code set to become effective Oct. 1, 2008, was placed on hold when the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute and several distributors sued Albuquerque, alleging the code would have created energy efficiency standards for furnaces, water heaters and air conditioners that were more stringent than those allowed under Federal law.

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New LEED AP program -- continuing education too

Building Green - Jan 1

The Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), the organization that administers the LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) credential, announced substantial revisions to the LEED AP program. After June 2009, existing LEED APs will have to opt into an updated version of the program with continuing education requirements, while aspiring LEED APs will find that accreditation requirements have become more rigorous. The overhaul is part of the ongoing move to increase the rigor of the LEED Rating System by separating creation and maintenance of LEED standards from enforcement of them. About 65,000 people have become LEED APs since the program began in 2000 as a way to recognize experts in the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Rating System.

Obama's renewable energy pledge

Business Green - Jan 5

As president-elect Barack Obama prepares to meet with members of Congress this week to discuss his economic stimulus package, he pledges to make renewable energy a central component of the economic bail out. "To put people back to work today and reduce our dependence on foreign oil tomorrow, we will double renewable energy production and renovate public buildings to make them more energy efficient," he said in the Democratic Party's weekly radio address. Obama offered no further specifics, but in the past he has said he will invest \$100 billion over 10 years in clean technology and has outlined plans for an upgraded national energy grid designed to harness and distribute power from wind, water and other alternative energy sources.

National Building Museum features green community exhibit

Green Building Elements - Jan 2

[The National Building Museum](#) in Washington D.C. has opened a Green Community exhibition. Green Community explores the origins of the current ecological situation and highlights communities large and small where citizens, political leaders, planners, design professionals, developers, and government agencies are working together for a more sustainable future.

Green Building Advisor -- website launching

Building Green - Jan 5

GreenBuildingAdvisor.com, the new site offered by Building Green, will formally launch January 20, 2008 at the International Builders Show. This new residential green building website is the result of an effort by Peter Yost, Building Green's director of residential programs; managing editor Dan Morrison, formerly of Fine Homebuilding; Martin Holladay, former editor of Energy Design Update; and others.

Missouri's certified green hotel program

Environment News Service - Dec 30

The Missouri Hotel and Lodging Association has developed a program to certify hotels and other lodging establishments that use sustainable and green business practices. The Certified Green program and its [website](#)

launched January 1, 2009. Missouri's Green Lodging Certification is a pilot project of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources that will be conducted in cooperation with the association to recognize those lodgings that go beyond existing state and federal regulations to insure that their operations have a minimal environmental impact on their local communities. "The association's holistic approach to a broad range of environmental issues is a model which can be used by other segments of our economy," DNR Director Doyle Childers said in a statement Monday. "Guests staying at these hotels will be assured through this public-private partnership that the business where they are staying is taking the extra steps necessary to reduce their environmental impact," Childers said.

Jersey City introduces green building proposals

Globe St. - Dec 30

Jersey City mayor Jeremiah Healy has proposed a series of ordinances aimed at boosting the city's eco-friendly profile. The proposals, which include incentives for private developers and the purchase of fuel-efficient municipal vehicles, have been sent to the City Council for review. According to published reports, the state Department of Environmental Protection rates Healy's proposals as the most comprehensive green plan seen thus far in New Jersey.

Notable green building projects...

Fayetteville's first LEED certified courthouse

Northwest Arkansas Times - Dec 30

Fayetteville city officials celebrated the groundbreaking of a new district court building that will become the first building constructed under the city's new LEED certification standards. "All city buildings over 5,000 square feet must qualify for LEED-silver certification," Fayetteville Mayor Dan Coody said of the city's new standard. "Pretty soon, all government buildings in Fayetteville will set the standard for sustainable infrastructure."

Weather Channel facility earns LEED gold

Environmental Leader - Dec 19

The Weather Channel has received Gold LEED-New Construction certification for its new HD broadcast facility in Atlanta, Georgia. The 12,500 square-foot facility was designed by Vocon Architecture. The building includes features such as using heat from studio lights to warm the building, and a weather sensitive irrigation system that stores rainwater to supply the landscape irrigation system.

Office building in Bloomington pre-certified LEED gold

Globe St. - Jan 2

Bloomington, Minnesota's upcoming 8200 Tower at Normandale Lake Office Park, a product of a long-term commitment by owner Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), and a collaboration between developer United Properties, property manager NorthMarq, architect Edward Farr and various consultants, is already pre-certified as LEED Gold. LEED Gold certification should help attract new tenants and achieve higher returns in a down time. "It was our idea to make it a sustainable project," says Bill Katter, a vice president of United Properties, Bloomington, MN. "We packaged it and brought it to [TIAA], who asked us to go further. We

found we could get to Gold [certification] without too much economic investment."

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