



Greening the Neighborhood: Mueller earns LEED-ND

from *The Austin Chronicle*

It's not just hometown pride - on a national level, the Mueller neighborhood is now certifiably special. That's the word from the U.S. Green Building Council, which in a pilot program just designated Mueller a LEED Silver certified plan. The new USGBC designation promotes sustainability for whole neighborhoods and larger mixed-use projects; previously, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system applied only to single structures.



But critics pointed to the need for a rating system that looked beyond a building's walls. (How sustainable, for example, would a 200,000-square-foot LEED Platinum Wal-Mart be that still encourages driving several miles to shop?) So LEED for Neighborhood Development takes the next step for sustainability and climate protection by establishing standards that integrate the principles of smart growth, urbanism, and green building into a national program for mixed-use and neighborhood design. Befitting Texas, Mueller is at least double the size of most other pilot projects certified under the new designation. [Read full article](#)

Sustainability Boosters See Greener Pastures

from *GreenSource*

It costs on average \$4.01 per sq ft to get a building certified



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Upcoming Events

USGBC Events:

[Brown Bag Lunch-N-Learn: Understanding Carbon Neutral Design](#)

Date: December 8, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[USGBC CT-B Holiday Mixer!](#)

Date: December 10, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[USGBC CT-B Holiday Party!](#)

Date: December 18, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

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under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system for green buildings, according to recent market research. That figure translates to \$830 million in LEED-related construction spending from 2000 to 2008, says a study by USGBC and consultant Booz Allen Hamilton. The 52-page "Green Jobs Study" estimates \$12.5 billion in LEED-certification-related spending will occur over the next five years, an amount that would sustain 230,000 jobs. In the same period, energy savings are expected to total \$6 billion, with \$4.8 billion directly attributable to LEED certification, says the study, which was released at USGBC's 2009 Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, held Nov. 11-13, in Phoenix. The market research, which can be downloaded at www.usgbc.org/greeneconomy, estimates \$554 billion will be spent between 2009 and 2013 on construction of buildings that have multiple sustainable features or are LEED-certified. It will take 7.9 million jobs to create these buildings, says the report. [Read the rest of the article](#)



The Forest for The Trees: 2 Women Leading Biomimicry in Design

from Huffington Post

When I was in the thick of my New York life and not taking many vacations out in the greenery, I was invited to go white water rafting. My main occupation at the time was observing street style and finding order and meaning in all of that gritty, gloriously imperfect urban beauty. Mid-afternoon, we pulled our raft into a cove and sat in silence staring up at the stone walls covered in a vivid algae.

[Read the full article](#)

Austin Weighs Joining Cities Making Densities Deals with Developers

from the Austin American-Statesman

Seattle has a plan. So do Tampa, San Diego, Portland, Denver, Nashville and Calgary. Vancouver is the exemplar, a city

Fifty Percent Increase in Green Building Programs Since 2007

from AIA press release

In the wake of an extended global economic slump, local communities are pushing ahead and expanding their green building programs. More than one in five U.S. cities with populations greater than 50,000 surveyed by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) report having a policy to promote green buildings, accounting for more than 53 million people. The AIA initially conducted this survey in 2007 for a Local Leaders in

that has used a developer bonus system to encourage density downtown while assuring that the city core doesn't become a forest of bulky high-



rises with a scarcity of parks, public amenities or places for moderate-income people to live. Now it's Austin's turn. On Dec. 17, the Austin City Council is scheduled to vote on proposals for a voluntary program under which downtown developers would be rewarded with extra space or height for their projects if they provide certain community benefits, such as

affordable housing, child care services or cultural spaces. City leaders have several goals: encouraging density and growing the tax base while ensuring that downtown remains a desirable place to live and work.

Click [here](#) to read the entire article

Sustainability report that has just been updated. The new report, [Green Building Policy in a Changing Economic Environment](#), is an inventory of policies and best practices intended to help policymakers advance a more sustainable legislative agenda for growth and development. The report also contains detailed case studies of the green building programs in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Boston, Nashville, and Grand Rapids, Mich. "My passion for sustainability really comes out of the social side of the 'triple bottom line,'" said Grand Rapids Mayor, George Heartwell. "We have hit a tipping point here in Grand Rapids, as I think that we are at the point now where the arguments around cost, have been proven to be, if not fallacious, at least weak arguments when you look at the long term costs of maintaining a green building." Hear more from Mayor Heartwell in a recent [interview](#) by AIA Director, Local Relations, Brooks Rainwater. [Read full article](#)



"Forwarding Dallas" Hill-Filled Design Wins Re:Vision Dallas Competition!

from Inhabitat

The winner of the extremely exciting [Re:Vision Dallas](#) competition to create a completely sustainable community on a run-down city block in downtown Dallas was just announced yesterday - and it's incredible!

[Click here for more](#)

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