



USGBC Looks to Building Community to Help Renovate LEED

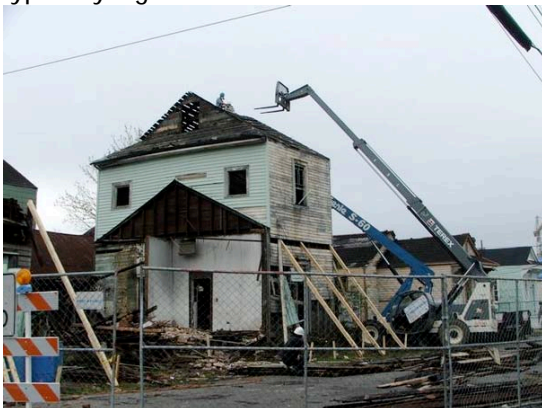
from Clean Technology Insight

The U.S Green Building Council has heard the criticisms that its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system doesn't incorporate building performance, and it has called upon building industry members to help it make this change. When a building earns a LEED rating of certified, silver, gold or platinum, it means that upon completion of construction or renovation it has met certain standards in various categories like energy efficiency, water efficiency, resource use and other measures of environmental consideration. But once the building receives its rating, there is no check up on how the building uses resources and the people who run and use the building can greatly influence whether the building uses energy and water the way its designers intended. The USGBC held a series of five meetings in recent weeks in five major U.S. cities to invite building designers, builders, owners and operators to give the Washington, D.C.-based independent, non-profit organization ideas on how to ensure that buildings actually save as much energy and water as they claim when they get their LEED plaque. [Read full article](#)

Deconstruction: Vital Side of Sustainable Development

from Consilience: The Blog

As we look toward a future with mandatory Green Building Ordinances in California and elsewhere, one critical construction component is often overlooked - - site preparation. Regardless of the site - whether there is a pre-existing structure or simply an open field - site preparation typically signals the start of the actual construction



process. The conventional way to bring down a building is the good ol' wrecking ball. The building is collapsed into a huge pile of rubble and then transferred to commingled debris dumpsters. All materials are



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Upcoming Events

USGBC Events:

[Brown Bag Lunch-N-Learn: Intro to the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America \(IESNA\)](#)

Date: November 18, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

Date: November 19, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[Green Networking Mixer](#)

Date: November 19, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

Other Events of Interest:

[2009 CCIM Symposium](#)

Date: November 12, 2009

Location: San Antonio, Texas

[CANstruction 2009](#)

Date: November 14, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

[National Brownfields Conference 2009](#)

Date: November 16-18, 2009

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

[Sustainable Water Treatment and Reuse](#)

Date: November 16 & 19, 2009

Location: Austin, Texas

QUICK LINKS

lumped together, many of which take several generations to decompose. Steel - 100 years. Aluminum - 300 years. Plastic - 450 years. Glass never decomposes. Then there is the hazardous waste - - who knows that harm is lurking there. Regardless, this conventional, commingled trash heap isn't going anywhere soon because, no matter the nature of the material, it is all going to the same place - landfill. [Read the rest of the article](#)

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What's Old is New: Wood and Metal Get a Second Life in Efficient Prefabricated Homes

from Austin American Statesman

The stretch of U.S. 183 in East Austin is particularly nondescript, save for the presence of Callahan's General Store, a 7,000-square-foot manufacturing facility and a 336-square-foot home set back from the road and on subtle display. 'Our offices are back there,' says Tracen Gardner, co-founder of Reclaimed Space, the prefabrication construction company responsible for the home, pointing to the somber factory. 'Let's meet in the house.'

[Read the full article](#)

Obama Launches Climate Push with November Goal

from Grist

U.S. President Barack Obama's Senate allies launched a major push Tuesday behind sweeping legislation to battle climate change, with time running short before a high-stakes global summit in December. "Today, we begin the formal legislative process to lead the world in rolling back the urgent threat of climate change," said Sen. John Kerry (D-



Mass.), the lead author of a Senate bill to create a cap-and-trade regime. Obama, showing during a trip to Florida that he will not wait for lawmakers to act, was to unveil the largest-ever upgrade of the

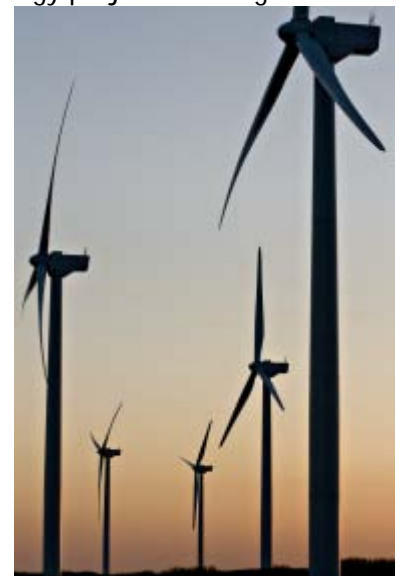
U.S. electricity grid, in a \$3.4 billion bid to unleash a new era of renewable energy consumption. Some 100 firms, manufacturers, utilities, and cities will get awards worth from \$400,000 to \$200 million to help build a nationwide "smart energy grid" to cut costs and improve reliability of the creaking system. In Washington, Obama's secretaries of energy, interior and transportation, as well as his

Of China, Texas and Green Jobs

from New York Times

When a coalition of investors and wind developers from the United States and China announced plans for a large-scale wind project in West Texas last week, many of our readers expressed outrage that a portion of the financing might well come from the \$22 billion set aside in the economic stimulus package for clean energy projects - and green jobs. Their

complaints, in part, stemmed from the fact that although a few hundred jobs would be created in the United States, the 240 wind turbines slated to generate power at the planned wind farm would be manufactured in Shenyang, China - where some 2,000 jobs would be created, according to The Wall Street



Journal. In a subsequent column, I highlighted some of our readers' complaints - and pointed to a more general analysis, from the Investigative Reporting Workshop at American University, showing that a large percentage of "green" stimulus

Environmental Protection Agency chief, were urging senators to act quickly to curb pollutants blamed for global warming.

funds distributed so far have gone to foreign companies. [Read full article](#)

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



Taipei 101 to be the World's Tallest Green Building

from Inhabitat

Taipei 101, famous for being one of the world's tallest buildings, is set to get some major eco-upgrades in an effort to save money, reduce its impact, and gain the much coveted title of "World's Tallest Green Building." In 2007, the Burj Dubai surpassed Taipei 101 in terms of height, but the Taiwanese building won't give up the fight, throwing down \$1.8 million in energy efficiency upgrades, which are expected to yield \$20 million annually in savings and make it the Earth's greenest building that's also closest to the heavens!

[Click here for more](#)

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Every year, each American throws out about **1200 lbs** of organic garbage that can be composted.