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AMAZING STRIDES

SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER CONTINUES TO GROW



by Robert Cannellos,
LEED AP BD+C

DURING A HARSH ECONOMIC TIME for our country and for our core professional audience, the USGBC South Florida Chapter (a nonprofit [501(c)(3)] organization) has significantly strengthened its educational and advocacy programs, reached out to a wider variety of audiences, and communicated its fact-based message of a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. In a remarkably short time frame (from corporate and nonprofit standpoints), the Chapter has appreciably grown in numbers and influence. It has become the green building and sustainability resource for South Florida and a respected and oft-tapped entity for the State of Florida and the nationwide USGBC network.

Organized in 2004, the Chapter achieved modest gains in membership numbers, organizational structure and public awareness during its first three years. By 2008, however, the Chapter was dealing with, along with everyone else, an economic slowdown on par with some of the worst times our country had ever experienced. Starting in early 2009, our Board and new executive director embraced an aggressive, bold strategic plan to bring green building and sustainability to the forefront of the South Florida community. A powerful, broad goal was set by the association: spur growth in

membership and volunteer numbers and enhance the Chapter's ability to connect, educate, enlighten and empower our region to adopt an approach to building that is both ecologically and economically sustainable. These initiatives have proven increasingly successful and continued bringing our evolving mission to elected officials' offices, professional boardrooms, classrooms, homes, and beyond.

Indeed, more than membership growth, we have been most proud of consistent evidence that the Chapter's new outreach efforts have been effectively reaching consumers, designers, builders and regulators, who have been, in turn, inspired to understand, support and practice green building. Education of our local governments, design and construction professionals and the general public regarding sustainable design, sustainable materials and greener construction methods, as well as the environmental and economic benefits of green building is occurring through a targeted, aggressive approach to education, communications and business development in our cities. Internally, at the Board and Branch leadership levels, discussions are constantly taking place that are dynamically sharing and expanding what is working in the Chapter, and diminishing what is not. We listen to our membership and pride ourselves on our consistent evolution, communication and unique ability to change with the times.

The truth is in the numbers. During the past 20 months, the USGBC South Florida Chapter has:

- Experienced a 35 percent growth of our membership base during a time when the majority of Chapters across the country were struggling to maintain numbers. Membership jumped from 674 members in

January 2009 to 1,032 members in November 2010. Our Chapter is one of only eight USGBC Chapters in the United States to surpass 1,000 members. Additionally, the Chapter's "friends" database is approaching an additional 3,500 individuals – a valuable resource list made up of former members and non-members who (by request) are kept informed of our organization's meetings, positions and activities.

- Experienced a nearly 40 percent increase in volunteers at our four local Branches, underscoring not just the important educational message of the Chapter, but also the fact that networking opportunities at these grassroots meetings are unparalleled. Our meetings bring together the best and the brightest to share and learn, and in the process we become a "family" that grows together. On top of that, we have a great time in the process!
- Completely overhauled our website into an interactive, informative and professional source of green building information. The dynamic website now includes a popular calendar of events and an online, searchable membership directory (which turned out to be a much appreciated membership benefit). Both USGBC National and Chapters around the country have praised the South Florida Chapter's website.
- Created a multi-disciplinary approach to social networking through a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. This approach has provided additional educational outreach to new communities in South Florida and beyond.
- Compiled and produced a first-ever, comprehensive hardcopy membership



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directory, complete with many other useful lists for Chapter members. This valuable, 109-page resource (and new member benefit) was produced and mailed to all Chapter members at no cost to the Chapter, and was also distributed at no cost to other businesses in our various South Florida communities. The 2011 version will be mailed to members in February 2011.

- Sponsored or co-sponsored nearly 200 local “green” events (including thrice-monthly branch meetings, educational workshops and seminars) in the previous 20-month period, making the South Florida Chapter arguably the most active USGBC Chapter in the United States.

- Witnessed the number of LEED Certified commercial projects in our broad geographic area jump from two (at the beginning of 2009) to more than 80 today. Although these LEED projects are certainly not a quantifiable result of the Chapter’s efforts, it is a statistic that the Chapter notes with considerable pride.

WHAT’S NEXT?

The Chapter’s leadership is buzzing about our future, as building performance and market data undeniably show that green buildings are the present as well as the future, so be assured we won’t be coasting on the success of green building in the South Florida marketplace. We will continue to listen and evolve as an organization, getting our broad message of sustain, balance and conserve out to ever-increasing audiences, stressing the triple-bottom line. We will be reviewing and modernizing our in-depth strategic plan. Always, we will look to secure feedback from our members through formal surveys and ever-wider avenues of communication. (Keep an eye on our website for a mapping system that is in development that will supply costs, photos, performance data and more regarding all LEED Certified buildings in our region.)

We will look to build on the successes of our education programs (including more tours of green buildings) tied to the monthly meetings of our four branches – Miami-Dade and the Keys; Broward; Palm Beach and Treasure Coast. We will offer more workshops and education platforms, and we will strive to make them more affordable and accessible; including online opportunities. We will reach out to the corporate community to grow our sponsorship program so that we will continue to be able to improve our products, services and scholarships. Further, we will continue to partner with like-minded companies that strive to keep sustainability a part of their mission.

We will enhance our green building and sustainability legislative advocacy efforts throughout the region and the state via hands-on volunteer involvement in local municipality and county “green task force” initiatives. We will look to advance relationships with regional and statewide sister industry associations and organizations by proactively seeking and establishing formal collaborative “Memorandums of Understanding” acknowledging a convergence of will, a common line of action, and shared viewpoints.

We will strengthen our Emerging Professionals program because it is from that talented, amazing and passionate group of individuals that our next generation of “green” leaders will emerge.

Our Chapter will also develop and strengthen our internal volunteer leadership as we commit to a focused program of identifying not only our Chapter’s future leaders, but also carefully matching up our volunteers’ needs, goals and talent so as to make their experience with the USGBC truly exceptional. Our volunteers are our most precious and important commodity, and we will never take their contributions for granted. But like any solid business, we want to make certain that we’ve got the right people in the right places who are capable of driving our organization in the direction outlined by - and for - our membership. We

will settle for nothing less than identifying and training individuals who possess both strong foundation competencies (e.g., integrity and ethical behavior; strong interpersonal and communication skills) and strategic competencies (e.g., solid business acumen and background). The goal here is an organization that will be dynamic, stronger and self-sufficient in the future.

And, though it may be a tall order, we will try to raise the bar even higher on GalaVerde, the 2011 LEEDership and Green Awards Program. Our wildly successful 2010 GalaVerde recognized and honored those outstanding projects, inspirational businesses, dedicated individuals, and instrumental Chapter members who are “LEEDing” the way to a more sustainable built environment in our South Florida community. Nearly 450 attendees attended the awards ceremony in Ft. Lauderdale.

The past year has been a remarkable success for the Chapter. It has taken hard work and tremendous effort by the many wonderful volunteers in our nonprofit organization. I would like to thank, in particular, my predecessor, Kyle Abney, who continues to inspire all of us privileged to know and work with him. I would like to thank last year’s Board of Directors for their outstanding work, and challenge the newly elected leadership to go beyond – far beyond – the accomplishments of the past couple of years. Together, I have no doubts whatsoever that we will meet our vision of buildings and communities regenerating and sustaining the health and vitality of all life within a generation. We welcome your contributions and invite you to join our Chapter family. 🌱

Robert Camellos is the President of the USGBC South Florida Chapter. He is a LEED Project Manager and Sustainability Consultant with The Spinnaker Group, a consulting firm with extensive knowledge and experience in sustainable planning, design, and the application of the USGBC LEED certification standards.



GREEN BUILDING

SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS GAINING RECOGNITION AS LEED PROGRAM BECOMES MAINSTREAM



by Rob Hink, LEED AP, USGBC LEED Faculty

MENTION “LEED CERTIFIED” OR “GREEN BUILDING” DURING the course of conversation and, chances are, you won’t need to explain what you’re talking about.

Just five years ago, you might get a funny look if you talked about a “green” building. Today, it’s unusual if the topics of LEED Certification and sustainable design aren’t brought up when a new development or building is taking shape. Clearly, the U.S. Green Building Council has had a lot to do with that.

The USGBC was created in 1998. Amongst other activities, the nonprofit organization oversees the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

LEED is flexible enough to apply to all building types – commercial as well as residential. It works throughout the building lifecycle – design and construction, operations and maintenance, tenant fit-out, and significant retrofit. LEED emphasizes state-of-the-art “green” strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.

And LEED for Neighborhood Development extends the benefits of LEED beyond the building footprint into the neighborhood it serves.

A USGBC study released last year showed that a growing number of developers of projects across the spectrum – and in both the public and private arenas – are using the LEED rating system for the design and construction of their projects. The study showed that commercial ventures were the most frequently registered LEED projects with 12,290 registered or Certified. Retail projects come in a distant

second with 4,398, and higher education follows in third place with just over 3,000 projects. Multi-use residential, campus, military base, restaurant, industrial, community development and K-12 education round out the top 10. While commercial office space is registered nearly three times as often as the second place retail projects, the other industries are seeing more registrations, so the gap is closing.

This month, the total footprint of commercial projects Certified under the LEED Green Building Rating System surpassed one billion square feet. Another six billion square feet of projects are registered and currently working toward LEED Certification around the world.

Clearly, the LEED program is proving itself here at home and worldwide. But why is it so important? As our world’s population continues to grow, so does the demand for energy and materials. Landfills are overflowing and resources are becoming more and more scarce. LEED encourages the reuse of building materials, in some cases drastically reducing or even eliminating the need for new lumber, concrete, fill dirt and other building materials.

Interest is coming from all corners of the globe; indeed, it is amazing how fast the tide is turning. It wasn’t that long ago that construction debris was just tossed in a truck and carted away to a landfill. That’s frowned upon now - and rightfully so. There are so many ways to keep materials in the supply chain instead of just dumping them somewhere and starting over.

Undeniably, more and more developers and owners are getting it. LEED encourages a reduction in energy consumption by awarding points for the use of locally sourced building materials that don’t need to be shipped from thousands of miles away. Projects are being built with less toxic materials, which in turn encourages the manufacturers of paints, adhesives and carpeting to create “greener” products to satisfy demand.

Since it was first introduced to the marketplace in 2000, more than 36,000 commercial projects and 38,000 single-family homes have participated in LEED. By consuming less energy, LEED Certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to healthier environments for residents, workers and the community. 🌱

Rob Hink is Principal and Owner of The Spinnaker Group, a consulting firm whose team has extensive knowledge and experience in the application of the USGBC LEED rating systems. Rob is a Past President of the USGBC South Florida Chapter and sits on the organization’s Board of Directors.



THE SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE USGBC THANKS OUR DONORS CIRCLE SPONSORS

ANY SUCCESSFUL GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM DEPENDS upon the cooperation of the public and private sectors. The U.S. Green Building Council South Florida Chapter's progress in achieving its goals and objectives is no exception. In that vein, our nonprofit organization gratefully acknowledges the support of the companies listed on this page.

To learn more about supporting our Chapter's activities through membership in our Donors Circle Program, contact our Chapter's Executive Director, Lee Cooke, at lcooke@usgbcfs.org. The benefits of such support to your firm are plentiful!

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GREEN BUILDING ADVOCACY

FROM ENTHUSIASM TO ENGAGEMENT



by Paul Carty, LEED AP
BD+C

ACROSS AMERICA, CITIES AND STATES are recognizing green building as a way to protect the environment, create jobs, promote energy independence, save money, and create healthier places to live, work and learn. The USGBC South Florida Chapter advances its mission in many manners, including providing policymakers and community leaders with the tools, strategies and education resources they need to implement green building policy at all levels of government.

Elected officials are busy folks, but they tend to make time for two things: their constituents and fact-based education that can help their constituents (and therefore help get them reelected). As green building is unquestionably a fact-based initiative, related facts are also head-turners, especially for our elected officials. With LEED results painting an ever-more authoritative snapshot of benefit for our future, the USGBC's green-building certification system is helping us change minds ... and policy.

The USGBC's advocacy work leverages this extraordinary and growing legacy of achievement to accelerate the uptake of state, local and national policies that advance energy conservation, green building and livable communities. From the articles of LEED-inclusive legislation that have been passed in 250-plus municipi-

palities across the country to the Mayor's Alliance for Green Schools, the partnership between political advocacy and the green building movement is reflected in accomplishments across the country.

Here in our South Florida Chapter, our Advocacy Committee promotes green building, renewable energy and sustainability initiatives within public policy, encouraging local, state and federal governments to adopt sustainable design and development through regulation, program incentives, and green projects. The committee strives to ensure that the Chapter is viewed as the local authority on green building, thereby promoting the USGBC LEED rating system for all construction projects. Our knowledgeable volunteers help expand the Chapter's partnerships with the general public and local municipalities, and work to identify and overcome barriers to green building that may currently exist in local building standards.

To learn more about the Chapter's advocacy efforts and to access excellent resources generated by the USGBC such as *The Local Government Guide to LEED for Neighborhood Development*; the *Green Buildings for Cool Cities* toolkit; the *Greening Our Schools – A State Legislator's Guide to Best Policy Practices*; and our South Florida Chapter's own *Broward 2030* report, visit www.usgbcfsf.org/advocacy. These excellent resources exemplify the USGBC's comprehensive mission to innovate, educate and advocate for a more sustainable built environment.

Advocacy is a wonderful, fulfilling volunteer pursuit. Here are four areas that our advocacy-focused volunteers are pursuing in their local communities:

• **Education about green buildings for climate protection principles** – en-

suring that smart and sustainable buildings are part of the climate-change solution.

• **Sustainable cities and communities** – promoting an integrated approach to urban and neighborhood development for green, livable cities.

• **Enlightening the population about green schools** – see associated article on page 14.

• **Green affordable housing** – and preserving affordability while broadening access to green buildings to all people.

Our hands-on efforts are making a difference across the State of Florida, as well in the national scope of our federal policies. If you'd like to get involved and help us spread the word and share the facts involving South Florida's successful "green" municipalities, please contact Lee Cooke, our executive director, at lcooke@usgbcfsf.org. 🌱

Paul Carty is a Partner and Vice President at State Contracting and Engineering Corporation, a leader in South Florida's green building market. Paul is the Vice-President of the USGBC South Florida Chapter and sits on the organization's Board of Directors.

CONTACT US!

For any aspect of USGBC education, programs and services within the South Florida region, please contact:

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FINDING GOLD IN A GREEN ORGANIZATION



by Kyle Abney, CGC,
LEED AP BD+C &
Homes

IN MY NEARLY FOUR YEARS IN VARIOUS roles with the U.S. Green Building Council South Florida Chapter, nothing has impressed me more than the dedication, determination and tireless efforts of our Chapter's volunteers.

From sharing the green message with legislators, lawmakers and the South Florida community, to planning Gala-Verde, our annual awards event, and our monthly branch meetings, our Chapter's volunteers spend countless hours helping our nonprofit organization grow and thrive. Whether at the Chapter's Board of Directors level or at the grassroots level at our four branches – where the green-building-education-and-outreach rubber truly hits the road – our amazing volunteers are unquestionably our nonprofit organization's lifeblood. Their time and energy are the mortar that holds together the bricks of our six-year-old Chapter family.

At the highest level of contribution, the Chapter's volunteer leadership is the backbone of the association. I depend daily on their practical guidance and educated directives as we move forward with various initiatives, programs and services. And, of course, the time commitment at that administrative level is even stronger than in other areas of need.

Admirably and literally, thousands of volunteer hours and contributions have already built an enduring USGBC tradition and educational network that is creating

a region in which green building and sustainable design are expected by residents, supported by governments, and provided by designers, developers and builders. The Chapter's broad coalition of industry members are, without question, making a real difference in our South Florida community by raising the awareness of the environmental, economic and health benefits of green buildings.

Who are these catalysts of change? Simply put, they are you. They are architects and attorneys, engineers and developers, contractors and subcontractors, housewives and caterers, teachers and students, retailers and entrepreneurs ... and many other everyday individuals whose off-the-clock hours for the Chapter are making a tangible difference in our communities and creating a brighter and more sustainable future for all of us.

No matter what your skill level or availability, there's a volunteer position with your name on it within the USGBC South Florida Chapter. A wide spectrum of committee tasks await a helping hand at each of our four Branches, which are spread geographically from the Treasure Coast down through Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties and further down into the Keys. Committees include communications, education, membership, emerging professionals, programs, advocacy, green schools, residential green building and more. Volunteering can take on many forms: from helping publicize or coordinate meetings to doing research on a specific project, to greeting or reaching out to new and prospective members. Much of our volunteer work is accomplished via email or the Internet, so a commitment to help out doesn't necessarily mean travel outside the geographic area of your respective Branch.

And have I mentioned how much fun our volunteers have! The sense of ac-

complishment our volunteers experience after pulling together with other Chapter members to accomplish a common goal is unmatched. The sense of camaraderie is obvious. The energy is contagious. Join us!

One last comment about our volunteers and our monthly Branch meetings – the opportunities for networking amongst this grassroots group are off-the-charts outstanding. Most of our volunteers do business with other volunteers, and introductions and relationships built through Chapter events is clearly a cornerstone for building a solid business reputation in our green community.

In closing, I'd like to extend a sincere thanks to our Chapter's volunteers. You are the reason our young organization has been able to grow in members even in an uncertain economy. Our cause is real and important, but it's the people involved – our remarkable volunteers – who keep us focused and on track to accomplish so many things. As part of the USGBC's Chapter network, you fill the role of community leader, grassroots organizer and front-line soldier. We simply could not do it without you. Thank you.

If you're interesting in connecting with our special community of volunteers and helping make a green difference in our South Florida region, please contact our Executive Director, Lee Cooke, at lcooke@usgbcfsf.org or 561-373-7367. To learn more about our organization, please take some time to study our popular website – www.usgbcfsf.org ... and then give Lee a call. 🌱

Kyle Abney is the Principal of Abney + Abney Green Solutions, a commercial and residential sustainable development consulting firm that specializes in green certification management, commissioning and virtual building simulations. Kyle is the immediate Past President of the USGBC South Florida Chapter and sits on the organization's Board of Directors.



GALAVERDE

HONORING THE BEST



by Carole Schafmeister, FCSI

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, GALAVERDE 2010 – the U.S. Green Building Council South Florida Chapter’s LEEDership and Green Awards program held on August 28 in Ft. Lauderdale – was a walloping success! A very handsome crowd of nearly 450 attendees turned out to recognize and honor those outstanding projects, inspirational businesses, dedicated individuals, and instrumental Chapter members.

Keynote speaker Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and founding Chair of the USGBC, absolutely wowed the audience with a terrifically inspirational talk. The Chapter’s annual awards dinner, presented by Bank of America Merrill Lynch and supported



(l-r) Outstanding Community LEEDer winner Joseph Sanches, School District of Palm Beach County, and presenters Clint Sockman, director of Renewal Energy at Advanced Green Technologies; Kyle Abney, Abney + Abney Green Solutions; and Rick Fedrizzi, USGBC.

by a host of other key sponsors (see www.usgbc.org/aftergala), recognized nearly 40 awards finalists and presented 11 stunning awards.

If you attended GalaVerde 2010, thank you so much for your support. Planning for the Chapter’s principal public evening for 2011 is already underway. If you are interested in volunteering, sponsorships, donating silent auction items, advertising in the program, or anything else, please

contact Lee Cooke, our Chapter’s executive director, at lcooke@usgbcaf.org. We’re already assembling lists and committees!

GALAVERDE 2010 WINNERS ARE:

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Outstanding Core and Shell Building presented by Virginia Snyder Hink of The Spinnaker Group (left) and Kyle Abney, Abney + Abney Green Solutions, and Rick Fedrizzi, USGBC (gentlemen pictured at right). Receiving the award are John Banting and Cheri Pavlik of Hedrick Brothers Construction.



From left to right, USGBC President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi captivated attendees with a stirring address. USGBC South Florida President Kyle Abney spoke glowingly about the Chapter, attendees and the special evening. And Diane Ross, Senior Vice-President of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, addressed GalaVerde's more than 450 attendees as the Principal Sponsor of the evening.

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Carole Schafmeister is an Architectural Representative for D&B Tile Distributors, a 45-year-old company with nine branches and showrooms throughout South Florida. D&B distributes marble, stone, glass, porcelain tile products, setting materials and equipment. Carole sits on the USGBC South Florida Chapter's Board of Directors and is Chair of the Miami-Dade and the Keys Branch.



Outstanding Green Contractor Award presented by Stefano Fontana of GSD Contracting (left) and Kyle Abney, Abney + Abney Green Solutions, and Rick Fedrizzi, USGBC (gentlemen pictured at right). Receiving the award for Pirtle Construction are Gary Pirtle and Eileen See.



Outstanding Existing Building Award presented by John Nix of FPL (left) and Rick Fedrizzi, USGBC, and Kyle Abney, Abney + Abney Green Solutions (gentlemen pictured at right). Receiving the award for Wachovia Financial Center are Cushman & Wakefield of Florida employees (l-r) Tim Keable, General Manager; Sandy Fenster, Assistant Property Manager; Don Cartwright, Leasing Director; Douglas Zargham, Project Manager; Nichole Lamoureaux, Leasing Associate; and Delber Mendez, Property Manager.



DOING NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT THE RIGHT WAY



by Sandra Lee, AICP,
LEED AP BD+C

TRY VISUALIZING THE FOLLOWING without smiling.

You come home from a rough day at work to your energy-efficient home with the double-glazed windows. The kids are still out playing in the neighborhood, having biked their way to after-school programs and friends' houses along the

path that winds through the park and adjoining housing clusters. Your spouse comes through the door a few minutes later, having walked from the metro station a few blocks away. Your own walk home from the office above the coffeeshop on Green Street is a bit longer, but each of your "commutes" allow you to enjoy tree-lined streets that traverse through homes, shops and offices in buildings of all shapes and sizes. Crossing any street is no problem – cars slow around the intersection bump-outs that calm the rush hour traffic on the narrow roads. In fact, there really aren't too many cars to worry about – the neighborhood was designed to accommodate walkers, bikers and bus riders who have found that properly designed "green"

neighborhoods make it easy, and therefore preferable, to leave the car at home.

How will your commute compare this evening?

Perhaps it won't be much different. South Florida is among a growing number of regions throughout the U.S. that are beginning to consider neighborhood design as an important way to encourage people to step away from their cars and embrace other modes of transportation.

The U.S. Green Building Council is helping bring about these changes one neighborhood at a time. The USGBC is committed to facilitating the development and retrofit of neighborhoods that integrate the combined principles of smart locations, neighborhood design, and green

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infrastructure and building. Amongst the many stakeholders are developers, owners, community members, architects and local governments. From retrofitted existing neighborhoods to new green walkable and mixed-use developments, sustainable neighborhoods – due to their location, design and performance – have the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from both the building and transportation sectors.

Bringing green neighborhood development projects to a community requires a commitment to directing resources toward places with existing infrastructure, compact development, access to transit and employment opportunities, affordable house opportunities, and, of course, high-performance green buildings.

Here in South Florida, a number of new and existing neighborhoods are making changes. It's not unusual now to see developments that are tailored toward the pedestrian, rather than focused on vehicles. Even established neighborhoods are making small changes that make it easier for walkers and bike riders to get around comfortably.

In South Florida, examples include Downtown Kendall, which has been designed and implemented as a compact, mixed-use center for residential, commercial and office uses; Coconut Creek's Main-Street Area; the City of Dania Beach Griffin Road Corridor Project; Wilton Drive in Wilton Manor, showcasing mixed-use buildings with residential above and shops below; and Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, providing wide sidewalks, landscaping, narrow lanes on the street and shop windows to look at, to name only a few features.

The USGBC has developed the LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED ND) rating system that is designed to certify green neighborhood development. The rating system is a collaborative effort of the USGBC, the Congress for New Urbanism, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, all of which provide valuable



Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Kane Concourse Business District. Streetscape improvements were done to enhance the pedestrian experience. The Concourse is one of the few remaining stretches boasting a predominance of well-preserved MiMo buildings.

information for understanding pedestrian friendly, compact, mixed-use neighborhood design features. Thousands of cities, large and small, are now moving forward with a sustainable development project, and most highlight it on their website. I encourage you to reach out to your city and find out if it has a sustainability director or urban planner, and let them know you expect them to implement sustainable development practices. Find out what the options are for your neighborhood.

The graphics accompanying this article identify several options taken within existing developments to enhance pedestrian access and decrease traffic speed. As evidenced, it doesn't take much to create big changes! As neighborhoods continue to embrace more sustainable developments, moving away from a single-use pattern to a mixed-use pattern that embraces employment, shopping and entertainment

opportunities within walking distance of residential development, as well as community space, green space, multi-transit options and more, rush-hour commutes will become shorter, easier and much more enjoyable. And that's bound to result in not only a healthier planet, but in many more smiles at the evening dinner table.

The Neighborhood Development Resources section on the USGBC website can be found at <http://www.usgbc.org>; click on "Resources" in the grey bar at the top of the page, then scroll down to "Neighborhood Development Resources." 🌿

Sandra Lee directs the Environmental Planning Department at Calvin, Giordano & Associates, a multi-disciplinary consulting firm in operation since 1938 providing services to the public and the private sector throughout southeast Florida. Sandra sits on the USGBC South Florida Chapter's Board of Directors and is Chair of the Broward Branch.



GREEN SCHOOLS FOR EVERY CHILD IN THIS GENERATION



by Linda Smithe, RA, LEED AP, CSI, CDT

IMAGINE A FUTURE WHERE CHILDREN wake up excited to go to school. Imagine that when they get there, they are met with clean, fresh air and classrooms with good, natural light, and a connection to the environment. Imagine test scores going

up, reading retention rates rising, absences related to respiratory illnesses like colds and asthma going down, behavior improving, teachers that are better able to teach and students better able to learn. You are imagining a Green Sustainable School.

If this sounds too good to be true, then you might be surprised to learn that it is already happening in schools across the country. Changes to school design – whether the addition of more windows to let in daylight or the implementation of a thermal displacement ventilation system that delivers air from the lower portion of the walls rather than from the ceiling – are helping improve energy efficiency, boost-

ing test scores, and reducing the amount of germs in the air.

“Green” schools are defined as energy-, material-, and resource-efficient education facilities optimized for the health and productivity of their occupants and users. They are designed, constructed and operated to the greatest extent possible within the carrying capacity of the planet in mind.

No longer are green, high-performing schools considered unique. In fact, school districts in South Florida and a growing number across the U.S. require their new facilities to be built to higher standards that improve energy efficiency, reuse building materials, and avoid the use of dangerous or toxic chemicals ... both in the way the school is constructed and in the manner that the school is operated and maintained.

For example, the School District of Palm Beach County has adopted “Energy and Water Use Conservation” and “Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse and Recycling” policies and procedures, which call for a reduction in water use and the implementation of recycling programs district-wide. All new construction in the district follows the USGBC’s LEED rating system. The district’s Pine Jog Elementary, opened in 2008, is the State of Florida’s first LEED NC Gold Certified school. Some of its “green” offerings include daylighting, rainwater harvesting, outdoor learning areas, nature trails and the use of low- or no-VOC materials. The building uses 30 percent less energy on average than other area elementary schools.

The LEED Schools Rating System was introduced November 2007. Public and Private Schools are embracing this new, more stringent rating system. State School YYY-1 - Miami, Temple Beth El, Pine Crest Prep, and St. Andrew’s Lower School in Boca Raton have all been Certi-

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U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL MEMBER

fied in the LEED Schools rating system. These schools often take sustainable design a step further and use the school as a teaching tool, showing students first-hand how to harness nature effectively. No wonder the kids love going to school!

Since the USGBC first launched the

clude the training and deployment of more than 1,000 green schools advocates in every state; the development of materials and case studies that help administrators build and operate green schools; and so much more. The Center for Green Schools (www.centerforgreenschools.org) rolls

“GREEN” SCHOOLS ARE DEFINED AS ENERGY-, MATERIAL-, AND RESOURCE-EFFICIENT EDUCATION FACILITIES OPTIMIZED FOR THE HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THEIR OCCUPANTS AND USERS.

National Green Schools Campaign in 2007, the nonprofit organization and its Chapters have been amongst the strongest advocates for green schools. The USGBC’s campaign has inspired a number of initiatives. The Broward School District has passed resolution #10-23 affirming the School Board of Broward County’s support of Green Schools. Others are focused on encouraging the government sector to support green schools, such as the 50-for-50 state legislative caucuses and the Coalition for Green Schools that brings together the national PTA, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers and others. Further efforts in-

these efforts into a powerful center of gravity for attracting expertise and resources to help deliver these schools for our kids and for the teachers who lead them.

“I’ve witnessed the profound impact green buildings have on our lives and the innovations they have poured into the marketplace,” says Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the USGBC. “I believe no other market speaks more powerfully to the benefits and potential of green buildings than our schools. As the husband of a Syracuse, New York, public school teacher and the father of two, there are few issues to which I’m more committed than providing children with a world-



Moabery Early Years Learning Center St Andrew’s School; LEED Schools Gold Certified; Leo A. Daly Company, Architects; photo courtesy of The Spinnaker Group, Inc.

class education in a healthy environment.”

Such efforts are paying off. Here in South Florida, the push for sustainable school construction and healthy, energy-efficient school design continues, with new schools awarded LEED Certification almost every quarter.

Schools demonstrate our hopes for the future. What better way to demonstrate our commitment than making sure every child receives an education in a building designed and built with their health and best interests in mind?

For more information concerning the USGBC South Florida Chapter’s efforts to promote green schools, visit www.usgbc.org/schools. 🌱

Linda Smith is a Registered Architect, LEED Project Manager and Sustainability Consultant with The Spinnaker Group, a consulting firm with extensive knowledge and experience in sustainable planning, design, and the application of the USGBC LEED certification standards. Linda is the Chair of the USGBC South Florida Chapter’s Green Schools Committee.



Pine Jog Elementary, School District of Palm Beach County; LEED NC Gold Certified; Zyscovich, Architects; photo courtesy of Thom Grafton.



LEED CONTRACTOR

The Royal Oaks Park Community Center for the Town of Miami Lakes built by Portland Construction has been awarded LEED® Gold Certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

According to published records, this is the first Municipal building in the tri-county area (and only the 6th in the state of Florida) to achieve Gold level certification from the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) under the NC (New Construction) LEED® Building Rating System.

The Royal Oaks Park Community Center achieved LEED® Gold certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as for incorporating a variety of sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. The project consists of the development of an 8,000 SF building to house miscellaneous multi-purpose rooms, offices, restrooms and storage areas.

LEED® Gold certification of the Royal Oaks Park Community Center was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. (M.C.Harry Associates- A/E of Record, Design Firm, & LEED Administrator.)

These features include:

- 53% Potable Water Use Savings
- 23% of the total building material content was manufactured using recycled materials
- 28% of all construction materials were extracted, processed and manufactured locally
- 36% in energy cost savings
- 77% of the Construction Waste was diverted from landfills
- 52% of all wood used in the project was harvested from well managed forests

Village of Palmetto Bay's Coral Reef Park Concessions Project becomes first municipal building in Miami Dade County to receive US Green Building Council LEED® Certification. The General Contractor and Construction Manager for the project was Portland Construction Co.

The Coral Reef Park Concessions Building achieved LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified building save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community. The project consists of a 2,400sf building providing a food and beverage concession area and public restrooms accessed from an elevated outdoor seating deck which offers expansive views to the Park's active playing fields.

LEED certification of the Coral Reef Park Concessions Building was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. (M.C.Harry Associates- A/E of Record, Design Firm, & LEED Administrator.)

These features include:

- 45% potable water use savings
- 20% of the total building material content was manufactured using recycled materials
- 15% in energy cost savings
- 87% of the construction waste was diverted from landfills



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EMERGING PROFESSIONALS

DESIGNING AND BUILDING OUR FUTURE



by Mark Schrieber, LEED AP BD+C, Homes; FL Class I HERS Rater

INTEREST IN GREEN BUILDING BOTH LOCALLY AND nationally has skyrocketed in recent years, fueled in large part by an energetic and dedicated volunteer workforce helping to educate the industry on the benefits of green building. A large number of these industry and movement supporters are members of the U.S. Green Building Council's Emerging Professionals committees. These under-30 professionals share their sustainably minded enthusiasm with others new to the field of green design and construction through event coordination, workshop hosting, networking and other events. The USGBC South Florida Chapter's Emerging Professionals Committee was founded in 2007, and the number of Emerging Professional and student memberships in the Chapter now exceeds 100 members ... and is growing every year.

Nationally, the Emerging Professionals program was started in Austin, Texas, in 2002, when students and young professionals convened at the USGBC's International Conference and Expo (today known as Greenbuild). Initially named the "Emerging Green Builders," the group eventually grew and evolved, becoming the "Emerging Professionals" and "USGBC Students" early this year to help with the growth and organization of students on campus and emerging professionals within the USGBC Chapters.

The Emerging Professional National Committee is made up of regional representatives from local Emerging Professional committees who work closely with USGBC staff, other national committees and boards to help keep the growth and development of the program in line with the USGBC strategic plan. The committee also serves as a communication channel for local Emerging Professional leaders and produces guidance, tools and resources to assist local committees in completing their mission. Large scale programs such as Historic Green, an annual volunteer program to help rebuild New Orleans

sustainably, and the upcoming nationwide screening of *Climate Refugees*, to be hosted by local committees and Chapters, have also been initiatives started from within the national committee.

Local groups – including the USGBC South Florida Chapter's Emerging Professionals – are deeply involved in programming that includes networking events, volunteer service days, hosting local design competitions, organizing LEED exam prep courses and study sessions, teaching sustainability within ACE mentoring programs, eco-fashion shows, and more.

"I could make a strong argument that South Florida's Emerging Professionals are our most vibrant, enthusiastic and tireless volunteers and members," said Robert Cannellos, president of the South Florida Chapter. "Every time you turn around, they've got a new idea or program brewing. One can't help but be enthusiastic about the future of the green-building movement."

Most recently, the South Florida Chapter's Emerging Professionals announced the winners of its 2010 Emerging Professionals Scholarship Program. Ten scholarships were awarded to local college students and emerging professionals to allow them to enter the building industry or further their existing careers with recognition as LEED Accredited Professionals or Green Associates. The Chapter's funding for this program was provided by two local companies – The Spinnaker Group and Resource 4 Floors.

"Programs like this are invaluable," said Lee Cooke, executive director of the South Florida Chapter. "Not everyone can afford to follow their dreams. This scholarship program puts these dreams within reach and enriches South Florida's already dynamic talent pool."

One of the Emerging Professionals' most popular events is the annual Natural Talent Design Competition, which produces several up-and-coming green designers each year. This year, the event brought together students and emerging professionals to design a LEED for Homes Platinum project, priced affordably and functional for elderly occupants. The Emerging Professionals, with a focus on the rebuilding effort in New Orleans, partnered with the Salvation Army's EnviRenew Initiative, allowing the top four winning design teams to have their projects built – an incredible feat for both residents and designers. Entrants first competed locally within the 31 Emerging Professional committees across the country that opted in to host the competition in order to qualify nationally. Recently, the top student and emerging professional designs from each Chapter were judged in



New Orleans by an expert jury and local residents to determine the four winning homes, which are now set to begin construction. Once occupied, the homes will enter a measurement and verification period, afterward which a final grand prize will be awarded. The designs were also featured in Chicago at the Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, where the winning design team members were able to present their home designs to conference attendees, catapulting them into the status of green building experts in the industry.

“All of the South Florida entries were outstanding,” said Kyle Abney, past-president of the USGBC South Florida Chapter and one of the judges of the local competition. “The students and young professionals exhibited impressive technical skills and an overall understanding of green design.”

Winning participants from South Florida received cash prizes from the local Chapter in addition to the potential of national recognition. This is the first year the Natural Talent Design Competition was hosted on an international level with a real, to-be-built project, and the USGBC’s Chapters answered the call with

more than 300 submissions. Given this success, the Emerging Professional National Committee is looking ahead and currently soliciting for real projects and organizations to partner with to create the next national program for the 2012 Design Competition.

Who are Emerging Professionals? Of course, many are young architects and engineers – or prospective professionals focusing on those and kindred majors in school – but a growing number of individuals outside the design and building industry are becoming involved in the group. The South Florida Chapter’s Emerging Professionals group includes lawyers, educators, healthcare professionals, sustainability consultants and pretty much anyone else interested in helping create a more sustainable built environment.

Across the broad USGBC network, more than 58 Chapters across the county host Emerging Professional committees. It is estimated that more than 1,000 skilled dreamers and practitioners are involved on those committees, producing more than 250 events annually.

The USGBC South Florida Chapter’s Emerging Professionals’ programs appeal to a wide audience – those who are new to the industry and interested in learning more, as well as more seasoned professionals who have something to offer a younger audience. One example of South Florida’s Emerging Professionals educational events is the popular “How to LEED” series. These workshops feature interactive discussions based on actual LEED projects, allowing young students and professionals access into the world of LEED in a practical, real-life sense.

“Green buildings offer great hope for our economy, our environment and our future, and that future is, more than ever, in the hands of our talented and motivated youth who are going to lead the next generation with an ever keener focus on green building and sustainability,” said Abney. “Whatever their roles – advocate, educator, practitioner or volunteer – we’re in good hands.”

If you are a young professional, please consider joining our group. If you are interested in stepping up and making a difference by working closely with and mentoring these dynamic young professionals and students – indeed, encouraging them to step up and make a difference – please contact me at mark@thespinnakergroupinc.com. Please also contact me for more information concerning the 2012 Natural Talent Design Competition or concerning hosting a local screening of *Climate Refugees* at your Chapter. To learn more about the USGBC South Florida Chapter’s Emerging Professionals program, visit www.usgbcsof.org/ep. 🌱

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