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Register for Free Green Government Webinars in June!

NACo, through the support of its Green Government Initiative sponsors, has launched a series of free green government webinars for counties. Register at www.greencounties.org for the following upcoming webinars:

Waste Management, Recycling and E-Waste 101

June 12 2:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern

- Waste Management
- Logan County, OH
- Alameda County, CA
- Clackamas County, OR

Communicating Your County Climate Protection Message

June 18 1:30pm – 3:30pm Eastern

- Pew Center on Global Climate Change
- American Institute of Architects
- Sarasota County, FL
- Whatcom County, WA
- Boulder County, CO

LEED for Existing Buildings

June 26 2:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern

- US Green Building Council
- Building Owners and Managers Association
- State of California, Department of General Services
- Ada County, ID

Audio and Presentations Now Available to Download!

Presentations and audio recordings from the following May green government webinars are now available for download at www.greencounties.org.

Green Counties 101

- Dane County, WI
- Howard County, MD
- La Plata County, CO
- Marin County, CA

Green Purchasing 101

- US Communities
- Office Depot
- Los Angeles County, CA
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK
- Sarasota County, FL

Funding Options and Financial Incentives for On-Site Renewable Energy Projects

- Johnson Controls
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Catalyst Financial Group/ENERGY STAR
- Butte County, CA

New Green Government Sponsor!

Welcome to Hewlett-Packard (HP), NACo's newest Green Government Initiative sponsor! Stay tuned for more information on HP. To review the complete list of sponsors visit www.greencounties.org.

NACo Launches Green County Competitions



NACo is sponsoring two national competitions for counties beginning July 1 through November 30.

Change the World, Start with ENERGY STAR – formerly known as the Change a Light Campaign, this year counties will collect pledges from county employees and residents to not only change a light in their home to an energy-efficient one, but to also choose among a variety of other actions they can take to help save energy (such as power managing computers, choosing ENERGY STAR appliances, or properly programming their thermostats). On average, each ENERGY STAR qualified CFL can prevent more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and save about \$40 over its lifetime.

win! Three winning counties of this year's competition will each receive 1,000 free compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) from [Office Depot!](#)

Drive Smarter Challenge – counties motivate and empower county employees and residents to educate themselves on how to reduce gasoline use by keeping their cars in good working order, driving less, and driving more fuel efficiently. The Energy Information Administration estimates in 2008 that the average US household will spend about \$3,400 on gasoline (*please see more information to the right*).

win! Three winning counties will receive 1,000 bottles each of fuel additive/cleaners from [AutoZone!](#) Fuel additive/cleaners are products applied to the fuel system to help vehicles be more fuel-efficient.

To register your county as a participant in either or both competitions please visit www.greencounties.org/competitions. Participating counties will have access to a wide variety of resources and tools to assist in their outreach efforts.

Counties Challenged to Help Residents 'Drive Smarter'

By Charles Taylor, County News Senior Staff Writer

With gas prices hovering near the \$4-a-gallon mark, NACo is challenging the nation's counties to help their residents and employees "drive smarter," save money and energy as part of the Alliance to Save Energy's Drive Smarter Challenge.

The challenge is a fuel-efficiency campaign recently launched by the Wal-Mart Foundation, NACo and 16 other partners to help consumers lower their gasoline costs by using less. It's one of two national energy- and money-saving competitions NACo is sponsoring this summer (see left side of this page).

"NACo is excited about helping counties educate their residents on fuel-saving tips and encouraging their participation in the Drive Smarter Challenge," said President Eric Coleman. "From July through November, we will see which of the nation's 3,066 counties can most effectively spread the drive smarter message and get the most residents and employees to access drivesmarterchallenge.org and learn how they can save money by being more fuel efficient."

NACo is challenging its members to see which county in each of three population categories can get the highest percentage of residents to take the challenge. AutoZone, another partner, will give each winning county 1,000 bottles of fuel additive/cleaner, which helps vehicles use fuel more efficiently.

The campaign's interactive Web site features a calculator that allows drivers to enter specific data on their vehicle (make, model, year, number of cylinders) and find out exactly how much money they can save with up to six easy vehicle maintenance and sensible driving steps. The calculator also displays a running tally of the cumulative money, gallons and CO₂ emission savings of everyone who has taken the challenge.

In addition, the Web site offers money- and gas-saving tips in English and Spanish. Links from the site lead to extensive resources ranging from where to find the cheapest local gas to information on public transportation, biking, car-sharing, and carpooling.

"With the summer driving season about to begin, our campaign could not be more timely in helping consumers, who are seeing their family budgets eroded by high gas prices," Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, said at a kick-off event at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. May 20.

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Drive Smarter (continued)

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates in 2008 that the average American household will spend about \$3,400 to fuel its vehicles.

Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.) was one of two members of Congress who spoke during the campaign launch event. "I would say that conservation is not for wimps; it's for warriors. It's for people who care about our country and they want to know how they can help," he said. "And conservation and efficiency is how they can help. It is a call that we need to make from the top to the bottom: Conserve. Here's how." Sen. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) also spoke.

The campaign's other partners are the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association, American Petroleum Institute, AutoZone, Inc., Car Care Council, ExxonMobil, League of American Bicyclists, National Association of State Energy Officials, National Independent Auto Dealers Association, National Low Income Energy Consortium, Natural Resources Defense Council, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Safety-Kleen and U.S. EPA's SmartWay campaign.

For more information visit
www.greencounties.org/competitions.



Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, showcases a tip card and the website for the Drive Smarter Challenge at a press conference on May 20.



Maricopa County Goes Green

The Maricopa County, AZ Board of Supervisors has approved a green initiative that covers a wide swath of county departments and promotes an environmentally sensitive approach to county business and saving money. County departments have been meeting for several months to discuss ways to "green" operations, share ideas between departments and formalize a plan to deliver services with less of a negative impact on the environment.

The program contains short and long-term strategies to help Maricopa County reduce energy and material use and save money, all while reducing its carbon footprint. The plan includes identified actions to help improve the region's air quality, improve water quality and quantity, and make better decisions leading to efficient, economical and environmentally sensitive land use and development patterns.

"Save the environment and save money, that's our model," said Board of Supervisors' Chairman Andy Kunasek. "In many instances we can be more environmentally sensitive at no additional costs or with a relatively short return on investment. For example, we've started buying smaller cars that are cheaper to buy and much more efficient to operate. Solar panels and other more cutting edge items may cost a bit more up front, but we'll analyze them to ensure that they're still cost effective in the long term."

Supervisor Don Stapley points proudly to the work the planning department is doing in terms of digital plan submission. Stapley, who is promoting green governance as this year's President Elect of the National Association of County, believes Maricopa County has a responsibility to be a green government. "Soon, we'll have reduced the amount of pollution our customers create in getting their building permits, by offering these services online, instead of requiring a trip to the downtown office."

"When we started looking, the first thing we saw was that it was rather simple to do a lot of things," said David Smith, County Manager. Smith points to the purchase of new paper with recycled content, automatic vehicle routing systems for field personnel and more video conferencing as starters. "We'll then move systematically to consider ideas which require some initial investment or are more involved like the alternative fuel vehicle program approved by the Board last year."

Maricopa County is incorporating its green initiatives into its performance measures as well. "The approach is all about efficiency," said Smith. "And to lead the way, we must be able to measure our progress both financially and environmentally."

Arlington County Energy Manager Honored with Prestigious Climate Protection Award

By: Monica Fritz-Manolio, Environmental Intern

On May 19, John Morrill, Arlington County, Virginia's Energy Manager, received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Climate Protection Award for his excellent service in establishing environmentally-friendly policies in Arlington County, Virginia.

The award, established in 1998, recognizes exceptional leadership, outstanding innovation, personal dedication, and technical achievement in climate protection, and is judged by an international panel comprised of past winners. People from anywhere in the world, both in private and public sectors, are eligible to win the award; however, only 39 individuals received this honor in 2008. This year, the award ceremony was held in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, where Morrill was acknowledged as "a driving force" behind Arlington's climate action program, the Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions.

Morrill has worked for Arlington County since leaving the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy in 2000. Following five years of his leadership, the amount of energy use in the county per square foot was reduced by 6%, while carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 2.6%. The county's energy efficiency continues to improve, due in large part to his guidance. Improving energy efficiency is nonstop, he says, "We've eliminated virtually all of the incandescents in our buildings and completed a ton of other lighting retrofits, and now we're busy on more complicated work like replacing HVAC systems, and updating building controls."

He was instrumental in the county's decision to purchase 6% of electricity from wind power (as renewable energy credits). "Not only does wind power reduce our carbon footprint," he says, "this purchase also retires NOx allowances for Clean Air Act compliance in the metro DC region." Arlington buys these renewable energy credits in a contract along with Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria Schools.

"The award is both gratifying and also very humbling because I do feel like we're just launching this effort," he says. "One of the things that is also very gratifying is the extent to which networking with other jurisdictions can help build momentum. The more of us doing it, the easier it will become...we all learn from each other."



Arlington County Energy Manager John Morrill accepts his USEPA Climate Protection Award on May 19.

The Fresh AIRE (Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions) campaign was launched in January 2007. This program aims to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases from county buildings by 10% between 2000 and 2012. Residents and businesses are encouraged to join the program, which allows access to free energy audits, energy-efficient fluorescent lights, and tips on increasing energy efficiency. The county has begun offering personal property tax breaks for privately-owned, clean-fuel vehicles. Residents with these cars may receive full tax relief on the first \$20,000 of their vehicle's assessment. Eighteen different fuel-efficient gas-electric hybrids also qualify for this program.

Arlington has long had strong environmental programs, and Morrill says the climate initiative works to integrate these efforts and lift them a notch. For example, in 2002, Arlington County received the USEPA's first National Award for General Excellence in Smart Growth, recognizing the County's emphasis on transit-oriented development.

Arlingtonians drive fewer miles per year because it is easy to walk, bike, or take transit for many trips. Over half of the workers in Arlington commute to their jobs without the use of their cars; in fact, one-sixth of Arlington households do not even own a car. Arlington has an award-winning commuter services program, helping workers find alternative ways to work besides the single-occupant car.

The county has been pursuing alternative fuels in its own fleet for years. Arlington was the first local jurisdiction on the East Coast to purchase hybrid-electric Priuses for its fleet, and the county now has over 90 hybrids in its vehicle inventory. Since 2001, all of Arlington County's diesel vehicles have operated on B20 fuel, a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% traditional diesel. The county has E85-capable vehicles and runs its own transit buses on compressed natural gas. *(continued on next page)*

Green Activities Planned at NACo Annual Conference in Kansas City

Note: to review the complete conference agenda including workshop descriptions and to register for the conference please visit www.naco.org and click the conferences tab.

Workshops:

- Does the Equation Add Up? Environment + Jobs = Strong Economy?
- How to Implement County Green Policies - Innovative Codes and Ordinances
- Waste Not, Want Not: How to Prepare for New Challenges in Recycling
- Buying Green Won't Make You See Red
- Climate Protection Tools
- Food, Fuel and the Environment: Making Sense of the Ethanol Debate
- Citizen Participation: A Difficult, but Essential, Challenge for Counties
- Sustainability in Health and Wellness for Counties in Times of Crisis
- Symposium: Housing and the Economy: Issues and Options for Counties
- Mobile: Tour Regional Sustainable Projects in Action
- Avoiding Annexation - How to Hold on to What You Have
- High Water Marks: Tools for Rural Counties to Improve Water Quality
- Economic Development Infrastructure: Developers and Counties Working Together

*Live Eco-Elvis Performance
Sunday, July 13*



Come learn about NACo's Green County Competitions and view county green government posters (continued on next page).

County Energy Manager Earns Climate Award (continued)

The county is home to the Langston Brown School and Community Center - the first building in Virginia to be awarded with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification. The county also offers incentives for private developers building to LEED standards, as well as green certifications for homeowners,

Morrill says Arlington's commitment has also spurred activity in the private sector. For example, the county is home to the nation's first all-hybrid taxicab fleet, EnviroCab. The entrepreneurs who started this business say AIRE and the public response to AIRE inspired them. They felt the public was ready for a more climate-friendly alternative to the usual Crown Victoria for the trip to the airport.

Also, separate conversations about AIRE between Morrill and representatives of Pepco Energy Services and Virginia Tech led him to introduce those two parties to each other, which ultimately led to the \$500 million Energy Efficiency Partnership of Greater Washington, a partnership between Virginia Tech, Pepco Energy Services, Hannon Armstrong (financing firm), and several associate partners including Arlington County.

Although Morrill has proven himself to be an excellent environmental strategist, he is still adamant about the fact that he has not achieved this progress alone.

"This has very much been a team effort," he stresses. "This is an organizational program. I happen to lead it...but it's certainly not a one-man band."

Morrill has co-authored two books on energy and the environment, Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings and Residential Indoor Air Quality. These books offer easy-to-understand guides to help readers to make environmentally-friendly choices and save money. John Morrill's progress in Arlington County and his enthusiasm to spread green ideas to others make him an excellent example for others to follow.

For more information on the county programs discussed here, please visit www.arlingtonva.us/climate.

AIA Releases Study of Three Green Building Rating Systems

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has released a study of three green building rating systems and assess their effectiveness in supporting the goals of the AIA sustainability position statement. In late 2007, the initial results were shared with the three groups whose systems were reviewed. After receiving feedback, the study was modified and further refined into the final report.

The purpose of this exercise is to offer analysis to both industry and the public as an opportunity to learn how three unique, creative and evolving green building rating systems resonate in various dimensions with the goals of the AIA position statement on sustainability and our goal to achieve carbon neutrality in buildings by 2030.

"This study is not a report card or ranking of the various standards," said AIA Executive Vice President/CEO Christine McEntee. "The intent is to offer design and construction professionals an in depth review of the three systems with particular emphasis on areas for improvement in relation to more rigorous energy conservations requirements."

"We reviewed these particular systems because they are the most broadly used in the U.S. market and they take a comprehensive approach to evaluating an entire building," added AIA President Marshall Purnell, FAIA. "With new sustainability continuing education requirements in 2009 for AIA membership the results of this study can help better inform our members and the profession on green rating systems as they relate to our carbon reduction goals."

Key findings:

Green Building Initiative's Green Globes:

The system offers a broad based evaluation of projects in both the design process and based on environmental criteria. When used to certify a project, more stringent and specific requirements in the areas of energy reduction and operational performance are needed, as these are the two areas that most influence carbon production.

U.S. Green Building Council's LEED NC 2.2:

This is good example of a rating system which provides a measurement of environmental achievement. Continued developments in life cycle assessment, requirements for renewable energy or carbon reduction targets for certified projects will continue to make this system an effective resource for architects.

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Green Poster Session (continued)

The following counties are scheduled to display green government posters at the NACo Annual Conference on topics including: green buildings, sustainable stormwater management strategies, pollution prevent, recycling, energy education, and climate change.

Maricopa County, AZ
Arapahoe County, CO
Leon County, FL
Sarasota County, FL
Wakulla County, FL
Story County, IA
Lake County, IL
Johnson County, KS
Dakota County, MN
Union County, NJ
Clackamas County, OR
Henrico County, VA
Isle of Wight County, VA
King County, WA
Dane County, WI
Outagamie County, WI

For more information contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org or 202.942.4224.

Top 5 Ways to be Green when Building or Remodeling

According to the International Code Council...

1. Turn off lights – Turn off unnecessary lights, indoors and outdoors, to conserve electricity. Install lighting timers or sensors to automatically turn off lights when not needed.
2. Install high-efficiency heating and cooling systems – High-efficiency (90 percent and higher) heating and cooling equipment also conserves electricity. Use programmable thermostats to minimize energy use, especially when no one is home.
3. Choose high-efficiency windows and appliances – High-efficiency windows reduce heating and cooling costs by minimizing the impact the outside environment has on a home.
4. Select low water consumption fixtures – Low-consumption or dual-flush toilets, low-consumption or waterless urinals, and low-flow bathroom, sink and shower faucets all help to reduce water use.
5. Use fluorescent bulbs – Compact fluorescent light bulbs use less power and last longer than conventional bulbs.

Taxpayers and the Earth Save 'Green' with King County

A new report shows taxpayers in King County, WA are saving money while safeguarding the environment through the county's Environmental Purchasing Program.

And it's no small amount of cash. By purchasing \$41 million worth of items such as recycled paper and toner cartridges, biodiesel and hybrid cars, King County realized a savings of \$875,000 when compared to purchasing those items a year ago.

"This is a significant savings for the taxpayers of King County, and for the environment as a whole," said County Executive Ron Sims. "Our Environmental Purchasing Program is proof positive that making wise, 'green' choices makes environmental and fiscal sense."

Sims has submitted to the Metropolitan King County Council for review the 2007 Environmental Purchasing Program Report. The annual report and other program information can also be found at the program's Web site, at www.metrokc.gov/procure/green.

King County's Environmental Purchasing Policy reflects a long-term commitment to purchasing environmentally preferable products. The original recycled product procurement policy was adopted in 1989 in response to rapidly filling landfills and the need to create markets for newly collected recyclables.

Environmentally preferable procurement considers multiple product attributes, such as toxicity, durability, recycled content and conservation of resources, in addition to price, performance and availability.

The county's Environmental Purchasing Program provides county personnel with information and technical assistance to help them identify and evaluate, and ultimately buy, economical and effective environmentally preferable products and services.

Since 1990, the program has earned awards from numerous organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Association of Counties and others.

King County uses recycled paper in all major government functions, including printing more than nine million bus schedules annually, tax statements, court forms, pet license notifications, business cards, reports, stationery, and internal printing.

NACo Energy Efficiency Documents Now Available

NACo has developed two new documents for counties on energy efficiency:

County Buildings: Energy Efficiency and Performance Contracting - Performance contracting is an important tool for financing energy efficiency improvements in buildings, particularly in the public sector. Counties can make energy efficiency upgrades to county buildings by using the projected savings to pay for the improvements. This fact sheet explains how.

Improving Energy Efficiency in County Buildings - a comprehensive guide that aims to assist counties looking to improve the energy efficiency of their facilities – especially those that may be short of resources and time because the information and tools outlined are cost-free. The guide for energy efficiency in county facilities, based on EPA's Guidelines for Energy Management, leads counties through detailed steps and resources to increase energy efficiency of county buildings.

For a copy of these publications please contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org or visit www.greencounties.org.

Other environmentally sound purchases include: remanufactured toner cartridges; re-refined antifreeze and motor-oil; ultra-low sulfur diesel; biodiesel; hybrid vehicles; bio-based oils; low-VOC asphalt cold-patch; plastic lumber, compost, shredded wood -waste and tire-retreading services.

The program helps King County agencies obtain the benefits of changing marketplace opportunities by supporting them with information and technical assistance. Educational seminars, e-mail and a Web site all dedicated to environmental purchasing issues are used to keep agencies, suburban cities and the community at-large in touch with the county's environmental purchasing experience.

The purchasing program reports annually on the status of policy implementation and the environmental purchasing accomplishments of agencies. King County's Procurement and Contract Services, Finance and Business Operations Division, in the Department of Executive Services, administers the program.

Copies of the annual report and other program information can also be found at the program's Web site, at: www.metrokc.gov/procure/green.

Free ENERGY STAR Online Training Sessions

ENERGY STAR Challenge: Getting Started

Wednesday, June 11, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Learn about the tools and resources found in the ENERGY STAR Challenge Toolkit to help you improve the energy performance of your buildings and promote energy efficiency to the broader community, including schools, commercial offices, retailers, healthcare organizations, small businesses, and others. Attendees will also learn about the New England Community Energy Challenge, a regional opportunity for municipalities across New England to identify simple and cost-effective measures that increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use while reducing air pollution and saving money. Jim Armstrong will share the experiences of the Town of Hanson, MA, as it has taken the Challenge to improve energy performance and promote the benefits of saving energy to its citizens.

Improving Your Own Facilities: Measuring and Tracking Your Energy Use

Wednesday, June 18, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This session will review the online energy management tool, Portfolio Manager, which allows you to measure and track energy use and carbon emission reductions across a portfolio of buildings and helps your city or county lead by example with improved energy performance. Use Portfolio Manager to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track energy use improvements over time.

Promoting Energy Efficiency to Your Community

Tuesday, June 24, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Learn how to accelerate energy efficiency activities in your community. You can leverage ENERGY STAR brochures, public service announcements, press releases, posters, event ideas, and templates to help spread the word about saving energy and fighting global warming.

Benchmarking Wastewater Plants in Portfolio Manager

Tuesday, July 15, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Learn how to track the progress of energy efficiency efforts and compare the energy use of wastewater treatment plants to other peer facilities across the country. Attendees will learn how to measure and track energy use and carbon dioxide emission reductions in wastewater treatment plants to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track improvements over time.

Innovative Financial Solutions for Drinking Water Systems and Wastewater Plants

Tuesday, July 22, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Learn how water and wastewater facilities are increasing energy efficiency with innovative solutions to financial barriers. During this session, attendees will learn about the differences between financing projects in the public and private sectors, the basics of performance contracting, and taxable versus tax-exempt lease purchasing agreements. Financial experts will also highlight how to finance energy efficiency projects with the savings generated by reduced operating costs while quantifying the cost of delaying energy efficiency improvements.

ENERGY STAR and the LEED® Rating System

Tuesday, July 24, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

During this session, attendees will learn how to use EPA tools and resources to help meet requirements for the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system for new commercial construction (LEED NC), existing buildings (LEED EB), and K-12 facilities (LEED for Schools). Portfolio Manager, which is required for LEED EB, allows users to track energy use, associated costs, and carbon emissions in existing buildings. Target Finder is required for LEED for Schools and helps users set whole building energy performance targets in new construction and provides data, such as intended whole building energy use.

To register for any of the above webinars please visit: <https://energystar.webex.com/>.

ENERGY STAR Challenge

The ENERGY STAR Challenge encourages Americans to improve their energy efficiency by 10% or more. Counties play a vital dual role in the Challenge - they lead by example by improving their own buildings, and they leverage their relationships with private sector organizations to motivate them to make energy efficiency improvements.

More than 50 counties are currently participating in the Challenge. To learn how your county can participate in the program and also access NACo's free resource to assist you in benchmarking your county buildings with Portfolio Manager, please contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org or 202.942.4224.

International Code Council Green Seminars

2006 I-Codes and Green Building: The practice of Green Building is increasingly affecting building officials and building departments across the country. The first part of this course will introduce the concepts and basics of Green Building. Participants will learn why it is becoming more important than ever for building officials, designers and contractors to understand cause and affect relationships between the built environment and the natural world. Water, energy conservation and other resources will be discussed.

The second part of this course will address specific provisions in the I-Codes as they relate to Green Building, including an expanded look at how to apply the Alternate Materials and Methods provision. Code sections that have been in the codes for years will be identified for their relevance to Green Building. Participants will learn that code officials, good building codes, and code development are essential in moving all of us toward a greener and sustainable future.

Developing Local Green Building Ordinances and Programs: Building and Planning Departments in virtually every state are being asked to develop Green Building programs and ordinances for their communities. Participants in this seminar will learn basic methods for creating voluntary programs along with mandatory ordinances. Examples of programs that other jurisdictions have successfully put together will be presented in detail. There will be discussion of some of the more prominent Green Building rating systems, guidelines and standards that many cities and counties have adopted for their own use. This seminar provides a strong foundation and understanding of how to move towards developing green building practices.

Green Building and LEED: This course introduces all the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Rating Products and is a comprehensive overview of LEED for New Construction and Major Renovation v2.2. The course introduces technical requirements of the rating, the building certification process and implementation strategies. Special emphasis is given to baseline requirements and the standards

ICC 700-2008 National Green Building Standard - An Introduction: The seminar provides an overview of the new ICC-700-2008 National Green Building Standard, including the scope and purpose of the standard. The organization of the standard and specific provisions of the standard is introduced.

Visit: www.iccsafe.org/training/GBSI

Sacramento County Building to Get Solar System

Demonstrating leadership and a commitment to sustainability and the environment, Sacramento County, CA officials have announced the successful commissioning of its 100-kW solar array atop the County's Health and Human Services building. The solar energy system, which greatly offsets the electricity used by the facility, is the largest such system on any public building in Sacramento County.

The solar array is part of a larger, comprehensive energy efficiency retrofit program delivered by Siemens that is projected to produce a broad range of energy and operational savings across county facilities. "We are extremely excited to be switching on a new era of sustainability for our facilities," says Sacramento County Director of Facility Planning, Architecture and Real Estate, Carl Mosher. "I can't think of a more appropriate site for our first solar system. Our goal is to serve the community and to do it in a fiscally and environmentally friendly way. The best evidence that we are doing that is *right now* we are making clean, electricity from the sun on the roof of the Health and Human Services building."

At 100 kW, the output of the photovoltaic panels is enough to offset about 50 percent of the building's power needs. "If sustainability is to deliver on its promises and return net positive benefits to everyone living in Sacramento County, it must be approached holistically, that is, from both sides of the meter," says Siemens Building Technologies' district manager Chris Lofaso. "Emissions-free power generation coupled with demand side reduction is the holistic, higher impact solution. With the efficiency improvements we've made to the building's HVAC equipment and lighting, the solar system is able to make a real and lasting contribution."

Not only will the performance of the solar energy system and the energy efficiency upgrades and retrofits help save the County and taxpayers money on their energy bill every month, it also qualifies for more than \$300,000 in rebates from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) as part of a rebate program designed to incentivize consumers and state and local agencies to invest in energy-saving technologies. According to Siemens, the energy savings from the entire efficiency project will yield nearly \$470,000 in SMUD rebate incentives.

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EPA Funding Available for Pollution Prevention Projects

Deadline: June 9

EPA annually awards grants and cooperative agreements under the Source Reduction Assistance (SRA) Grant Program to support pollution prevention/source reduction and/or resource conservation projects that reduce or eliminate pollution at the source. This solicitation announces that nine of the EPA's Regional Pollution Prevention Program Offices anticipate having up to approximately \$130,000, per region, or approximately \$1,090,000 in total award funding to issue SRA awards in FY 2008 – FY 2009.

For more information please visit:

www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/srap08.htm

New Solar Report for Local Governments

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has published a new report titled "Solar Photovoltaic Financing: Deployment on Public Property by State and Local Governments," authored by Karlynn Cory, Jason Coughlin and Charles Coggeshall of NREL.

Many state and local governments are considering deployment of solar photovoltaics (PV) on public building rooftops, and also large-scale applications on public lands. The changing marketplace requires that public entities be financially sophisticated to capture as much of the economic potential of a PV system as possible.

This report examines ways that state and local governments can optimize the financial structure of deploying solar PV for public uses. It explores revenues from electricity and solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs), and incentives such as state systems benefit charge (SBC) funds, issuance of energy bonds, clean renewable energy bonds (CREBs) approved by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and federal renewable energy production incentives (REPI).

Finally, the report explores the recent emergence of the third-party ownership model and the potential benefits and challenges with this structure. Under this model, the government entity hosts (but does not own) a solar PV system and signs a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) rather than paying a large, up-front cost to get a PV system on its property.

To review the report please visit:

www.nrel.gov/docs/fy08osti/43115.pdf

Solar System in Sacramento County (continued)

Averaging about 265 days either clear or partly cloudy, Sacramento is an ideal location for a solar power generating system. According to Daniel L. Mendonsa, LEED AP® * Energy Program Manager for Sacramento County, "Powering the Health and Human Services building with solar-generated electricity reduces the facility's carbon footprint by about 100 metric tons. Counting all the efficiencies across the project, we expect to see an impressive total reduction of 800 metric tons." According to SMUD, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by that much is equivalent to removing 22 cars off the road or planting 14 acres of trees every year.

With the energy efficiencies created by the installation of new building automation, HVAC equipment, lighting, and controls at the Health and Human Services, Parks and Recreation and Main Water Quality buildings, Siemens and the County expect to realize some \$360,000 in operational, maintenance and energy savings; enough to assure a simple payback of less than 10 years.

As a leading provider of energy and environmental solutions, building controls, fire safety and security systems solutions, Siemens Building Technologies, Inc., makes buildings comfortable, safe, secure and less costly to operate. With U.S. headquarters in Buffalo Grove, Ill., Siemens Building Technologies employs 7,400 people and provides a full range of services and solutions from more than 100 locations coast-to-coast. Worldwide, the company has 28,000 employees and operates from more than 500 locations in 51 countries.

For more information visit:

www.usa.siemens.com/buildingtechnologies

AIA Report (continued)

International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment's SBTool 07:

SBTool 07 is a toolkit for designing a rating system. If used as a rating system providing certification, SBTool 07 would be stronger if there was an increase in the number of "required" items vs. those that are simply "encouraged" and required project documentation. Specific requirements in the areas of energy reduction and operational performance would supply any rating system approach that comes out of SBTool 07 with performance-based requirements necessary for reaching carbon reduction goals.

For the full report please visit:

www.aia.org/SiteObjects/files/Quantifying%20Sustainability.pdf

Southeast Regional Quality Growth Conference: Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century

The Southeast Watershed Forum is working with NOAA's Coastal Services Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Gulf of Mexico Program, TVA and other agencies and organizations on plans for the first Regional Quality Growth conference - Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century, scheduled for August 12-14, 2008 in Charleston, South Carolina at the Doubletree Guest Suites.

More than 35 presenters and seven plenary speakers will provide innovative ideas and case studies based on the following themes: 1) Building Greener Communities; 2) Saving Habitat, Farmland, Green Infrastructure and Community Character, and 3) Designing Resilient Communities.

For more information visit:

www.sustainablecommunitiesconference.org.

Clean Diesel Wins Future Car, National Engineering Challenge X

Clean diesel technology powered the top three winning vehicles and 12 of 17 entries overall in a national engineering competition known as Challenge X to design the green cars of the future.

"Today we have a glimpse of the leading technologies that will power our future cars, trucks and SUVs, and it's no surprise that the winner was a clean diesel engine running on renewable biofuels, coupled with a hybrid powertrain," said Allen Schaeffer, executive director of the Diesel Technology Forum.

For more information, visit

www.dieselforum.org/newsarticle/article/clean-diesel-wins-future-car-national-engineering-challenge-x/51/

USGBC and ICC Sign MOU for Green Building Practices

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the International Code Council (ICC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that forges a stronger relationship between the two organizations in order to further green building practices.

For more information visit:

www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2007/052green_building.html

ICC White Papers Available

The I-Codes and Green Building/ICC Green Building White Paper I. The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the current green building climate, track the efforts of various organizations in this area and provide a general background or primer for ICC members and others interested in green building and the relationship of green building to the codes produced by the International Code Council.

www.iccsafe.org/news/green/ICC_Green_Building_White_Paper.pdf

ICC Green Building White Paper II: The Case for the International Codes as the Foundation for Green Building Programs and Standards. This paper addresses the fact that buildings are neither sustainable nor green if they are not also built in accordance with existing building codes.

www.iccsafe.org/news/green/ICC_Green_Building_White_Paper2.pdf

Shrinking the Carbon Footprint of Metropolitan America

To review this new report by Brookings please visit: www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/05_carbon_footprint_sarzynski.aspx

The Role of Recycled Water in Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

This report by the California Sustainability Alliance is available at:

http://sustainca.org/content/recycled_water_2

Materials Available from Alternative Fuels & Vehicles National Conference + Expo

Visit the following address to download presentations from the conference:

<http://afvi.org/NationalConference2008/>

Green Leases Toolkit Now Available

The California Sustainability Alliance has launched a Green Leases Toolkit designed to help owners and tenants of commercial real estate overcome barriers to greening leased office space.

For more information visit:

<http://sustainca.org/content/newsroom>.