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Energy Star V3 March Invite.pdf

Lightly Treading Community Newsletter

February 2011

Green Fact

Eight Facts About Warming Up Your Car in Winter

News, Announcements and Resources

PACE Litigation
The United States District Court for the Northern District of California has taken up lawsuits filed by the State of California, Sonoma and Placer Counties, the Sierra Club, and the City of Palm Desert that seek to overturn the Federal Housing Finance Agency's July 6, 2010 directives that were designed to stop PACE residential programs nationwide. (Source: Efficiency First Blog)

Increase in Rebates for Qualifying Small Wind Turbines
The Governor's Energy Office announced an increase in the rebate available for qualifying small wind turbines. Coloradans may receive a rebate of $2/watt up to 5kW for residential installations and $2/watt up to 15kW for commercials installations. Some utility providers are partnering with the GEO, and those partner customers are now eligible for a rebate of $3/watt up to 5kW for residential installations and $3/watt up to 15kW for commercials installations. Funds available through these partnerships are limited.

Lightly Treading Partners with Electric & Gas Industries Association to Provide Energy Auditors and Raters with Business Optimization Support Services. *Home Performance continues to drive demand for better buildings.* Read the Press Release.

GEO Announces Small Hydro Streamlined Permitting Program
The Governor's Energy Office announced today the start of its Small Hydro Streamlined Federal Permitting Program in partnership with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The program implements the provisions of a groundbreaking agreement Colorado and FERC signed in late August 2010 aimed at permitting 20 low impact hydropower projects in the next year….The program will exclusively assist developers of low impact projects using existing infrastructure. Low impact projects by definition do not increase stream diversions and do not have adverse effects on water quality, fish passage or cultural resources.
Read the full press release here.

President Obama's Commitment to Energy Efficiency
President Obama's recently released budget proposal emphasizes the Administration's

commitment to energy efficiency. Citing efficiency as often the lowest cost option for reducing energy use, the budget has significantly increased funding levels for promoting and implementing efficiency in buildings, vehicles, and industrial energy use while calling for an end to 12 tax breaks for oil, gas, and coal. This shift away from providing fossil fuel subsidies will raise an estimated $46 billion over the next 10 years to help fund clean energy and efficiency programs. Learn more here. Source: National SAVE Energy Coalition

Call for Training Houses
Lightly Treading is going to be increasing our trainings and is looking for homes to train in to ensure diversity in our training and testing facilities. The ideal home would have unfinished basement or an easily accessible crawlspace, attic space, and older efficiency furnace and water heater or boiler. Home use would be one to two days and a basic assessment of issues in the home can be provided upon request. Please contact AlexK@LightlyTreading.com if you are interested.

Changes in Xcel Energy's Solar Rewards Program
Xcel Energy announced their request to the Public Utilities Commission for a reduction in their on-site solar photovoltaic (PV) rebate for systems up to 100 kW. According to their compliance plan, Xcel energy is targeting the acquisition of 59MW of solar on-site systems in 2011, while immediately reducing the incentive by over 10%, more than doubling new distributed solar installations in 2010. One megawatt (1MW) translates into an estimated 200 residential solar PV systems. Read the full press release from the Governor's Energy Office to learn more. Public comment can be submitted to http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/consumer/ConsumerComment.htm

Flatirons Habitat for Humanity Reaches New Heights
Flatirons Habitat for Humanity completes four new energy-efficient Habitat homes and accomplishes a number of first-time achievements, including the expectation to be certified LEED Gold recognizing Flatirons Habitat homes as both energy efficient and cost efficient. Four families are ready to move in soon after a home dedication ceremony on March 19, 2011. More Information.

BPI Tony Awards
BPI is sponsoring a *Tony Woods Award for Excellence in Advancing the Home Performance Industry.* The nomination deadline is this Wednesday, February 23, 2011. The award recognizes the individual who has most advanced the home performance industry over the past year. To read BPI's full press release and instructions to nominate Click here.

BPI Announces 2010 End of Year Report - Click here to view full report

Business Performance Makeover Contest
EGIA is currently inviting Home Improvement, Home Performance and Energy Efficient Contractors to enter in its Business Performance Makeover Contest, for chance to win a series of business services for the year. Enter the competition by visiting http://www.egia.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=966

Careers &Trainings

Lightly Treading approved to provide training for Colorado State Energy Sectors Partnership.
Lightly Treading was recently approved to provide an array of trainings for employed and

unemployed individuals in the energy efficiency industry. It will provide us the opportunity to bring training to industry members and those looking to enter the industry at little or no cost.

Approved trainings include: BPI Building Analyst., BPI Building Envelope, Level 1 Thermography, Electric Audits, and Insulation and Air Sealing certifications.

If you, your staff, or associates would benefit from one or more of the training certifications listed above please contact Mark Palmer to learn more. MarkP@LightlyTreading.com.

Class Schedule:
Watch our website for 2011 offerings

Job Resources:
Green Jobs Resource page on the Governor's Energy Office's website Recharge Colorado
Efficiency First Home Performance Job Board
BGBG Job/Classifieds Board
USGBC Volunteer Opportunities

Green Jobs Pipeline for Women

Meeting on March 9th, 4:00pm-5:30pm
For more details on GJPW or to RSVP click here.

Contractors Needed for Boulder County EnergySmart Program
The Boulder County Residential Energy Efficiency Service ("EnergySmart") is seeking, on an ongoing basis, home performance contractors with a passion for helping homeowners save money and energy and who are interested in working with EnergySmart to deliver the best in insulation and air-sealing, energy efficiency/renewable energy equipment and retrofit services. Boulder County is very excited to be launching this new and innovative service. Download SOQ

Bringing the Energy Auditing Business to Scale
Free webinar on March 7, 2011, 12 pm EST
Concise Conferences will host a free webinar "*Bringing The Energy Auditing Business To Scale*" with four of the home performance industry's leading experts, including the Building Performance Institute Inc.'s (BPI's) National Technical Director, John Jones. The webinar will take place on March 7, 2011 at 12 pm EST. Click here for more information and to register for the event.

2011 IRES MLS Green Features Trainings: Understanding and Leveraging New Green Fields in the IRES MLS

February 25th, March 3, 9, 10, 15th
This class has been specifically designed for Realtors and Real Estate Agents to ensure you are well positioned to take advantage of the new green fields in the IRES MLS. Learn about these new searchable green fields and why they are so important for your work and the future of this industry. Go to http://www.bgbg.org/MLS to register and for more details on location and time.

Residential Green Building 101 for Professionals

March 9th, 8:30am – 4:30pm

The course is a densely packed 8-hour primer on residential green building basics, and also teaches you how to meet the rigorous City of Boulder, City of Longmont and Boulder County green building codes. For registration and costs visit the BGBG website.

USGBC LEED CEU

March 11, 2011: Understanding LEED Building Operations + Maintenance
This workshop introduces the intent, key elements, main requirements and unique aspects of the LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance (EB: O&M) Rating System. More details.

April 19, 2011: Homes 252: Understanding the LEED for Homes Rating System-
Learn the credits, requirements and essentials of the LEED for Homes rating system. Gain knowledge of the benefits of green homes and the structure, requirements and implementation process of the LEED for Homes rating system, and identify necessary steps to get started with a LEED for Homes project. Details.

Educational Survey
Help the USGBC build educational programming that meets your needs. Complete their educational survey by Monday February 28th to share your thoughts http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BVRB9HKMS/.

CSU Institute for the Built Environment Professional Development Classes
Certificate courses include: Green Building Certificate, Green Homes Certificate, Living/Green Roofs Certificate. Online Class Modules include: LEED® Green Associates Exam Prep, Efficient Energy Systems & Daylighting Course, HVAC Systems Course, Renewable Energy Systems Course. Find details and registration here.

Green Building Certificate Program:
March 10 – June 2; Thursdays 5:30pm-9:00pm
Details

Upcoming Events

ENERGY STAR 3.0 Information
March 16th, 8:30am – 10:30am
Lightly Treading is hosting an information session to educate industry professionals on changes in the ENERGY STAR for new homes program. See the attached invitation for details and to RSVP.

ENERGY STAR Webinars
New standards are coming out for ENERGY STAR certified homes and Indoor AirPlus. Stay informed on new guidelines by attending webinars from ENERGY STAR explaining the changes. Visit their website for details and registration.

Conservation vs Renewable Energy?
Dr. Jennifer L. Languell, President, Trifecta Construction Solutions, Host of "Discovery Project Earth", and Immediate Past President & VP, Florida Green Building Coalition, engaged the GreenExpo365 community in a discussion on energy. Some people see renewable energy as the answer, where others see the solution more around reducing what we are currently using. What is your take? The archived conversation can be found on their

website.

Colorado Sustainability Calendar
Over 40 upcoming sustainability events for 2011 are already listed on the Colorado Sustainability Calendar. Visit the calendar to plan your year, and to add your sustainability events. Events can now be sorted by city or topic, so you can more easily find activities that are relevant to you.

BGBG Request for Brown Bag Ideas
Submit suggestions for green building topics and speakers for 2011. Link.

Sustainability Series
1st Tuesday of the Month @ 6:00 pm ; Wynkoop Brewery; details

March 1, 2011 -
Tom Hootman - Director of Sustainability, RNL Design
RNL has recently designed the architecture, interior design, and landscape for the NREL RSF 2 Campus building. This talk will focus on design approach and the innovations that were incorporated into the building. RNL will present how the building has performed now that it is fully occupied. Frank discussion will be discussed regarding tenant responses to the "sustainable design" and whether LEED platinum achievement is truly the right metric to measure the long-term sustainability.

Free Green Building Tour
Wednesday, March 16, at 4 PM
Join Metro West Housing Solutions, USGBC Colorado members, and friends for a special sneak peak tour of Creekside West. Opening in March 2011, this 83-unit development for low-income seniors may become the **first LEED Platinum multi-family building in Colorado**. Along with the tour, MWHS's development team will provide background on the project and be available for questions. More Details and Registration Here.

ACI National Home Performance Conference 2011
Summit and Pre-Conference: March 28-29
Core Conference: March 29 – April 1
San Francisco, CA
EARLY BIRD registration ends February 14th
Visit their website for registration and details.

Global NEW ENERGY Summit
April 17-19, 2011
Keynote speaker, Bill Ritter. Registration.

Rocky Mountain Green 2011
April 20-21; Denver Marriott Tech Center
Visit the website for more information.
Over 50 different education sessions approved for GBCI and AIA continuing education hours.

National Association of Environmental Professionals Conference
April 26-29; Denver, CO
Website**.** Register for the conference before March 1, 2011 to receive a discounted rate!

BGBG Product and Service Fair
Sunday May 1st
Boulder Central Park

2011 National Healthy Homes Conference
June 20-23; Denver, CO
Details

Resources

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado – Sustainability Calendar of Events

Boulder Green Building Guild (BGBG)

Center for Resource Conservation (CRC)

Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES)

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado (CASBA) – Links to green job searches & social networking, and more. Learn about sustainability legislation.

Looking for Green Blogs? GreenExpo365.com Blog arena

Don't Forget

Xcel Energy sponsored energy efficiency presentations are available for free to Xcel Energy customers, groups of ten or more. Call LT to set one up.

Thank you for being a part of our grassroots community.

Sincerely,

Paul Kriescher, Principal
And the Staff of Lightly Treading

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