

GREEN COMPLIANCE PLUS

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WHAT GREEN CERTIFICATIONS SHOULD ARCHITECTS HAVE?

Should Architects study for and take the examination to become a LEED-AP, or test to become a Certified Engineering Plans Examiner (CEPE)?..... Do San Francisco Architects in residential design also need to be certified GreenPoint Raters?..... The short answer is NO.

In discussion with Architects who have previously become LEED-AP's none have found that adding an energy certification created additional sales. Also, the green industry is changing so rapidly that maintaining expert competency requires significant time commitments, which means neglecting their normal architectural practice. Allowing more time for billable design jobs is the purpose of this news digest. It provides you the most relevant Green information for a minimal time investment.

Finally, since consulting costs for Title 24 compliance are passed through to clients, there is no monetary incentive for an Architect to seek energy certifications.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 TITLE 24 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STANDARDS:

The new 2008 Title 24 Energy Compliance Standards, published in September 2008, and discussed in our prior newsletter, will become effective on July 1, 2009. What this means is that if your application for a building permit is submitted after July 1, 2009, you will have to comply with the new standards.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY TAX CREDITS EXTENDED:

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, was signed by the President October 3rd, and extended the residential energy efficiency tax credits for energy efficient improvement made between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. The previous tax credit created with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which had been in effect for 2006 and 2007, but had expired at the end of 2007. Unfortunately, improvements made in 2008 were not retroactively included in the tax credit extension. New homes will qualify for a \$2000 tax credit to the builder (home owner) if the home is certified to have 50% lower heating and cooling than the 2004 Supplement to the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). 10% of the savings must come from envelope improvements. The home qualifies for the credit if:

- It is located in the United States;
- Its construction is substantially completed after August 8, 2005;
- It meets the statutory energy saving requirements, and
- It is acquired from the eligible contractor after December 31, 2005, and before January 1, 2009, for use as a residence.

APPLYING FOR THE CREDIT, the IRS specified that the savings must be calculated in accordance with Residential Energy Services Network ([RESNET](#)) Publication No. 05-001. At **Mark English Architects Green Compliance Plus** we can calculate these savings using our Title 24 modeling program, (MICROPAS7) tax credit version, which is now approved by IRS-RESNET

Tax credits OF \$500 are available for water heaters, insulation, replacement windows, and specified high efficiency heating & cooling equipment. Unfortunately, new homes are not eligible for these tax credits, but, tax credits for solar water heating, photovoltaics, and fuel cells is available for new construction. The tax credit is for 30% of the cost of the system, up to \$2,000

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: Making sure that the particular application works with the overall HVAC concept and satisfies Title 24 compliance, while keeping up on new developments is a full time job....So, isn't it time for you to begin using your own "in-house" energy experts?That is who we are at GREEN COMPLIANCE PLUS..... your own, on call (24/7), Title 24, Green Energy Compliance Consultants.

Once we computer model your project for Title 24 compliance, our project specific energy analysis based on that model can point the way to that *Brighter Shade of Green* your clients are seeking.

Give Alan a call at *Green Compliance Plus* to discuss any Green Energy Subject.