

**The Green Energy Newsletter,**

Written by Architects and Engineers - for Architects, Builders, Developers &amp; Real Estate Professionals.

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Director – Energy Compliance (415) 816-1692 [Alan@markenglisharchitects.com](mailto:Alan@markenglisharchitects.com)**GREEN TAX BREAKS IN STIMULUS PACKAGE**

In his radio address Saturday, President Obama said he believed the country, "Will turn this crisis into opportunity and emerge from our painful present into a brighter future."

Apparently, part of that future is BRIGHT GREEN. The package contains more than \$42 billion in energy-related investments. Homeowners looking to save energy, makers of solar panels and wind turbines and companies hoping to bring the electric grid into the computer age all stand to reap major benefits, from tax credits for green homeowners to loan guarantees for renewable energy projects and direct government grants for makers of wind turbines and next-generation batteries. Here is how the new law breaks down on the Green Issues.

**GREEN JOBS:** The package includes \$20 billion aimed at "green" jobs to make wind turbines, solar panels and improve energy efficiency in schools and federal buildings. It includes \$6 billion in loan guarantees for renewable energy projects as well as tax breaks or direct grants covering 30 percent of wind and solar energy investments.

**TAX CREDITS:** There's a 30 percent tax credit of up to \$1,500 for the purchase of a highly efficient residential air conditioners, heat pumps or furnaces. The credit also can be used by homeowners to replace leaky windows or put more insulation into the attic. About \$300 million would go for rebates to get people to buy efficient appliances.

**LOW INCOME GREEN:** Another \$5 billion is marked to help low-income homeowners make energy improvements.

**POWER GRID:** About \$11 billion goes to modernize and expand the nation's electric power grid and \$2 billion to spur research into batteries for future electric cars.

**LEED CHANGES FOR 2009 TO SUIT EXPANDING GREEN MARKET**

Wednesday, I attended a seminar at the Nor-Cal chapter of USGBC which discussed the 2009 changes to the LEED AP designation. First it will become more difficult to attain LEED AP, but they have created a lower "entrance" level called LEED Green Associate, which is for Lawyers, Real Estate Agents and others who want to be affiliated with LEED, but who are not design professionals, This level is achieved by taking the 100 series courses and exam. Next is the Intermediate level which is where one studies LEED Core Concepts and Strategies, a 200 series class. Finally, the Design Professional will complete a 300 series class and exam to become the LEED AP+, which will have 5 sub designations, and for Senior LEED AP's there is the "FELLOW" designation, which is not yet completely defined.

LEED AP+ - GREEN BUILDING DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION (Formerly New Construction)  
LEED AP+ - GREEN OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (Formerly Existing Buildings)  
LEED AP+ - GREEN INTERIOR DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION (Formerly Commercial Interiors)  
LEED AP+ - GREEN HOME DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION (New)  
LEED AP+ - GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT (New)

All these programs begin on March 31, and all the new exams will be offered by September 2009.

All existing LEED AP's who wish to convert to the new program, will gain the + and their changed designation (from NC to BD&C), by signing up for the new program and agreeing the Continuing Professional Education requirements etc. Those who don't sign up by 2001, will become "LEGACY" AP's

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