

**The Green Energy Newsletter,**

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

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**NET ZERO & BEYOND CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO:**

This newsletter has been discussing great energy efficiency concepts like PassiveHaus and other energy efficient measures that allow a building or residence to use as little energy as possible. But, ASHRAE (The American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers) is taking it to the next stage, The Net-Zero-Energy concept.

*“We have reached a time when the building industry is being called to shift to a new level of performance that will reduce our energy and carbon footprint. It’s time to advance Net-Zero-Energy building knowledge.”*

ASHRAE is holding a conference **in the city of San Francisco** to provide a forum to discuss the role of policy and regulatory involvement in addition to providing application knowledge for the various aspects of net-zero-energy buildings for both residential and non-residential buildings. It will include building science, energy efficiency in HVAC, lighting and appliances, and how renewable energy sources can be applied to buildings and residences. Although ASHRAE has traditionally focused more on non-residential buildings, they have recognized for several years that the real energy savings will be found in the residential sector. Consequently, the conference program features two tracks one for **residential** and a second for non-residential. Architects working in either sector will find this conference very informative.

ASHRAE’s **Countdown to a Sustainable Energy Future...Net-Zero and Beyond** conference takes place **March 29-31** (Sunday-Tuesday) at Hyatt at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco. To register for the conference visit [www.ashrae.org/netzeroconference](http://www.ashrae.org/netzeroconference).

**NET-ZERO BUILDING OR RESIDENCE:** is one which, on an annual basis, uses no more energy from the utility grid than it provides from its own **on-site renewable energy sources**. Typically, these buildings or residences use 50-70% less energy than comparable traditional buildings, and the remaining energy use comes from renewable sources, like solar panels or wind turbines incorporated into the facility itself.

**ST. HELENA REQUIRES GREEN POINT RATING ON NEW CONSTRUCTION:**

Things are changing fast on in almost every municipal and county jurisdiction in California. In fact it is nearly impossible to keep up with all the changes, which is why we publish this newsletter. You may already know that Los Altos and Stockton have ordinances in place which will require new residential properties to achieve 50 points in the GreenPoint rating system, and San Francisco is phasing it in between now and 2011, but most other jurisdictions are also considering adopting similar ordinances. But it is important to be careful when you go to permitting. Although, posted code requirements for the specific municipality may not yet require the improved efficiency because they aren’t yet officially adopted by, they still might implement the requirements with your project.

One of our Title 24 projects which met all their published requirements and fully satisfied Title 24 was recently submitted for permit review at St. Helena. But, the city is planning to adopt an ordinance requiring new construction to achieve 50 points with the GreenPoint rating system for permit approval, which has become the standard for most jurisdictions. Although, the city officials will have to wait some months for actual ordinance approval, permits being reviewed by the city planning commission can be amended with “Conditions of Approval”. This allows the city to require the project to achieve those 50 GreenPoints anyway

So now we are re-working the Title 24 model to exceed Title 24 energy compliance standards by 15% (which will achieve 30 points of the required 50).

For more information contact St. Helena Building Department [www.ci.st-helena.ca.us](http://www.ci.st-helena.ca.us) (707 968-2657) Kathy Andre, Building Permit Technician. Kathy, is very helpful, knows everything about your project is enjoyable to deal with, and a great ambassador for her City.

## LEED AP REQUIREMENTS CHANGE, YET AGAIN.....HOW TO REGISTER TO GET RE-CERTIFIED:

Read more about the new LEED Credentialing Program at GBCI. Just to remain current, no matter when you got your LEED-AP **everyone** must register for the latest NC & CI exams by March 31<sup>st</sup>, and pay USGBC some more money to re-qualify or they will end up in the Legacy AP class. Of course, USGBC is facilitating this change by offering exam prep courses this spring (for only a few hundred dollars) so you can re-learn how to fill out their forms that you've been filling out for years, and re-test to re-qualify as a LEED-AP. Check it out at [http://www.usgbc-ncc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=102](http://www.usgbc-ncc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=135&Itemid=102)

LEED for New Construction v2.2 Exam Preparation Workshops:

- January 23rd in Silicon Valley
- February 11th in Sacramento

LEED NC v.2.2 Exam Preparation Workshops

This full-day workshop is designed to prepare you to pass their test with confidence - the first time. The workshop will focus on key information necessary to pass the LEED exam, including: credit intent and requirements; project team coordination; LEED process and implementation; technical analysis; and credit synergies and integrated design.

P.S. You don't need to be a LEED-AP to fill in their forms on line, even clerks can do it.

## DESIGNS THAT USE CERTIFIED TITLE 24 AUTHORS (CEPE's) QUALIFY

**FOR GREEN POINTS:** One of the easiest ways to pick up extra Green Points, under **Section J - Building Performance**, of the Green Point-Rating (GPR) Checklist, is to have your Title 24 documentation authored by Mark English Architects where Alan Hugenot, is a *Certified Energy Plans Examiner* (CEPE).

Many Northern California building departments are now specifically requiring that all Title 24 documentation is to be authored by a CEPE. We can also to review the home's design for maximum efficiency and interaction of the building elements, to identify specific opportunities where measures that exceed Title 24 can be cost effective by modeling the home and by identifying additional green building opportunities for the project. Homes that exceed Title 24 by 15% or more may also be eligible for ENERGY STAR® certification.

Give Alan or Mark a call at *Green Compliance Plus* (415 391-0186) to discuss your Title 24 documentation needs or any Green Energy Subject.