



The ILM Group™
Indiana Lumbermens
Mutual Insurance Company

Not the biggest, but always the best.

NLBMDA
NATIONAL LUMBER AND BUILDING MATERIAL DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Green Update
A news and information resource from NLBMDA.

June. 7, 2010

[NLBMDA Quick Links](#) > [Home](#) [Membership](#) [Government Affairs](#) [Calendar](#) [Bookstore](#) [Green Building](#)

What are green features really worth?

from EcoHome Magazine

FEATURE
Brief

When presenter Dave Porter asked a packed session at the NAHB Green Building Conference whether they had ever had an appraiser ask about their houses' energy-efficient features, only two or three hands went up. Porter wasn't surprised. Across the country, he said, appraisal companies and lenders have been slow to acknowledge builders, buyers, and owners of green homes as they apply for financing. He urged attendees to advocate for a system that gives credit for high-performance products and techniques. [More](#)

Send It: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Zero energy homes catch on in USA

from USA Today

Homes are increasingly being built in the United States to use little or no energy, a trend that could help reduce U.S. dependence on oil and gas, according to a new book. "Zero energy homes are becoming the new green," says David Johnston, one of the nation's leading experts on green building and co-author of *Toward A Zero Energy Home: A Complete Guide to Energy Self-Sufficiency at Home*.

[More](#)

Send It: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Showing the benefits of 'green' retrofits

from The New York Times

The practice of retrofitting buildings with simple, environmentally friendly technology like more-efficient boilers and better-quality windows has been around for years, but there is little research on how much energy these changes actually save — and by extension, how much money they can save landlords and lenders. In an effort to supply that information, Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the German bank, is financing the creation of a public database of several hundred retrofitted buildings in New York City and a companion report to determine the savings from such moves. [More](#)

Send It: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Leading in Energy Efficiency for 60+ Years

- DOW Styrofoam
- DOW Styrofoam
- DOW Styrofoam
- DOW Styrofoam
- DOW Styrofoam
- DOW Styrofoam

The Legend lives on

DOW Building Solutions

www.insulateyourhome.com

DOW Building Solutions

Rockville, Md., new green building codes getting favorable reviews

from *The Gaithersburg Gazette*

Although the new Rockville, Md., green building regulations will make it more expensive for businesses and residents to build in the city, city and business officials seem to agree it is the right thing to do. Cliff Majersik, executive director for the Institute for Market Transformation in Washington, D.C., said Rockville's code joins Washington, D.C.'s, as one of the greenest in the country. It may also make Rockville a more attractive location for future development, he said. [More](#)

Send It: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Weatherization incentives offer new opportunities for building pros

from *EcoHome Magazine*

With the growing number of federal, state, and local incentive programs for energy-saving home improvements and upgrades, there's never been a better time for building pros to diversify into home weatherization. "This is potentially a great opportunity to really get people thinking about upgrading their houses," Maine builder and remodeler Ashley B. Richards told attendees at the NAHB National Green Building Conference May 16 to 18. [More](#)

Send It: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Student-run MIT Energy Conference influences national legislation

from *MIT News*

Information presented in March at the annual student-run MIT Energy Conference played a significant part in influencing energy legislation that was just introduced in the U.S. Senate. On May 24, U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman — who was one of the keynote speakers at the conference, and also attended several of its panel-discussion sessions — introduced the Supply Star Act of 2010, a bill designed to bring about energy-efficiency improvements in supply chains. Sens. Scott Brown, Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor are co-sponsors of the bill. Bingaman indicated that the idea for the bill came from this year's MIT Energy Conference, where he and his staff were particularly influenced by a panel discussion titled, "Supply Chain Energy Use: Exposing Opportunities for Innovation in a Global Economy." [More](#)

Send It: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

Green building is catching on in Tri-Cities

from *TriCities*

Green building, which is already mainstream in cities like Asheville, N.C., and Charlottesville, Va., is starting to catch on in the Tri-Cities. "Since last year, when the winter was so bad and everybody's light bills were sky high, we've gotten a lot of calls," said Craig Milhorne, a partner in Highlands Solar Energy, which installs solar panel systems. "With the federal rebates and state rebates, it's made it affordable for almost everybody." His company was host for a recent tour of a house being constructed with geothermal heating and cooling, solar panels, spray-foam insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors and other components of sustainable building. [More](#)

Seize the Moment.

This Is Your
Moment to Meet
The Green
Challenge. Let Dow
Show You How.
[More](#)

Send It:    

LEED buildings rated green...and often toxic

from Fast Company

A new study from a health-research nonprofit blasts LEED for failing to protect against toxic indoor environments. The study, released last week by the Connecticut-based Environment and Human Health, Inc., says that the voluntary rating system — the gold standard for green buildings everywhere — falsely presents its projects as bastions of health and safety, when it actually allows for all sorts of harmful stuff, whether pesticides in tap water or formaldehyde-laden particleboard. "Although the primary stated purposes of the Green Building Council are to promote both energy efficiency and human health," says John Wargo, a professor of risk analysis and environmental policy at Yale and the study's lead author, "even the Council's most prestigious Platinum award does little to ensure that hazardous chemicals are kept out of the certified buildings." [More](#)

Send It:    

Measuring state's 'green-collar' jobs

from Las Vegas Sun

In 2010, the federal government will begin measuring "green-collar" jobs. Signed into law in late December by President Barack Obama, the 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act includes funding to be used by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to work with other federal agencies, including the Labor Department and Environmental Protection Agency, to identify green economic activity and produce data on the associated jobs. It will take \$8 million and at least a year to research and compile the series on green-collar jobs; the first data produced by the initiative are expected to be available in 2012. [More](#)

Send It:    

Exclusivity in forest certification schemes is bad for forests

from The Working Forest

There is a danger that well-intentioned procurement policies ostensibly designed to protect the environment often result in unintended consequences that aren't good for our forests or our communities. Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) President, Kathy Abusow told The Working Forest that the reluctance of the U.S. Green Building Council to recognise forest product certification systems other than the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is just such an example. [More](#)

Send It:    