

CBPCA Update

e-newsletter of the California Building Performance Contractors Association

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Director's Message

Program Director, Bob Knight:

Lots of activity lately here; a new training grant from the state, a home performance research grant from the Energy Commission, the formation of EfficiencyFirst, work on use of ARRA (stimulus) funds, our PG&E classes already getting overbooked for this spring, and CBPCA's involvement in the Thousand Home Challenge. [Read his letter.](#)

[Efficiency First](#)

Big things are happening in our country and our industry!

Efficiency First's Inaugural Webinar and Policy Briefing was hosted by Interim President **Matt Golden** on Friday, March 13.

If you were unable to listen in, they will be recording and posting the webinar in its entirety to www.efficiencyfirst.org.

The new system will allow members to communicate more effectively as well as manage personal information.

Upon logging into your profile, you should see "Membership Info." Please feel free to invite up to 5 people from your company to join Efficiency First. Bolstering our numbers is **ESSENTIAL** to getting our voices heard.

Then, read more about Efficiency First's Stimulus and Policy Documents:

- 1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: [Benefits for the Home Performance Contractor](#)
- 2) Efficiency First: [Policy Statement for Energy Bill](#)

CBPCA Announcements

CBPCA Verified

We are pleased to announce that the following CBPCA-trained contractors have completed our "CBPCA Verified" quality assurance testing:

- **Balance Point Home Performance** (Dan Perunko/Gavin Healy)
- **Building Energy Efficiency** (John Shipman)
- **Comfort Climate Control** (Mark Ramirez)
- **Green Building Solutions** (George Baral)
- **Sears** (contact: Steve McClearn)
- **Simms Custom Construction** (Andy Simms)
- **Sustainable Spaces** (Matt Golden)
- **West Coast Energy Solutions** (Chris Houdeshell)

These companies will be listed prominently on the CBPCA website and receive priority status when we provide homeowner referrals for Green Home Energy Upgrades. Also, only CBPCA Verified contractors may use the Home

Performance with ENERGY STAR(R) logos and promotional materials in California.

Many CBPCA-trained contractors are on their way to becoming CBPCA Verified.

[Read more](#) to find out how your business can become CBPCA Verified, too.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Have you had any media coverage? Are you making presentations? [Let Pat know!](#)

Living Green Homes is building one of Orange County's first "All Green Homes" in downtown Huntington Beach, located three (3) blocks from the ocean, at 319 21st Street, HB, CA 92648. This state-of-the-art home will be open for tours including sponsors, the trades, the general public, and utilized for events and hospitality. Much more information is included in the following website: www.LivingGreenOn319.com. This pilot will be promoted as an actual home showcase exhibition for all people to learn about the use and application of "Green Building Products, and Energy Efficient Equipment and Services" within the home environment. Tours will be available for "free" every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, for educational purposes, from 12 - 3 pm, starting on Saturday, March 7th and will continue to be open until further notice. Please contact Jason Scheurer at Jason@Living-GreenHomes.com or Office 714-841-3080

Ron Jones, owner of [Sustainable Home Solutions](#), spoke at [greenspace](#) in Santa Cruz on Saturday, March 7th. He made the case for energy efficiency, and its role in combating global warming while reducing our nation's dependency on fossil fuels. He also explained how energy efficient homes are safer, healthier and more comfortable than inefficient homes, and are less costly to operate and maintain.

Have you seen our own **Darren Moore** of [Evocations](#) on the Discovery' [New Planet Green Alter Eco](#) Tv Show?

Check out the **Planet Green** website [DIY](#) section for some helpful tips for your clients.

HVAC - NEW TAX INCENTIVE RULES

American Recovery and Revitalization Act of 2009. Specifically for HVAC contractors, the new law makes important changes to existing tax incentives for homeowners who make qualified improvements of higher efficiency HVAC and water heating equipment to their primary residences. [Read the article](#)

Members of **ACCA** may review a complete summary of the [tax credits online](#) including answers to frequently asked questions, as well as a spreadsheet listing qualifying equipment minimums.

Legislative Updates

- Recent legislative and regulatory initiatives on federal, state, and local levels have combined to create an unprecedented opportunity to green existing buildings in California. The following initiatives are reshaping the future of the built environment in California. [Read the article.](#)

Brian Gitt is a Principal at **BKi**, a leading energy efficiency and green building consulting firm in Oakland, CA. Brian is actively working with local governments, utilities, state agencies, and other building industry stakeholders to develop comprehensive existing home policies and programs. You can contact him directly at brian@bki.com

- Read about the **California Energy Commission's** overview of the **Stimulus Bill**, what the state will be getting, what the rules will be, etc. Details about solicitations and funding awards will

be available soon on the Energy Commission's website. Additionally, links to other programs will be offered and an e-mail ListServer has been set up specifically for information about the economic recovery plan. It will be updated as more information unfolds. [CEC Recovery](#)

- The following information was provided by **Tom Kelley** of [KyotaUSA](#), Helios Project in Berkeley. The following websites are also providing regular updates on the status of the **American Recovery and ReInvestment Act (ARRA)**:
 1. For California cities see: [League of California Cities](#). They have released a [handbook](#).
 2. All local governments, all California cities with a population of less than 35,000, and all small California counties who may be interested in learning about energy efficiency block grants and renewable energy possibilities in the ARRA should sign on to the [California Energy Commission](#) list serve.

Also see the California Energy Commission website devoted to the [distribution of energy funding](#) coming through the State of California.

3. In the "green jobs" category, see the report published by PolicyLink and Green for All entitled: [Bringing Home the Green Recovery: A User's Guide to the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#).
4. For Redevelopment Agencies see the [California Redevelopment Association](#) website.

We've also seen federal agencies preparing to make grants. Here's an example:

US EPA has received a large infusion of money for to replace and retrofit diesel fleets for cities, school, districts, and ports. Called the National Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, California will receive approximately \$30M in grants that are targeted at replacing older diesel engines and equipment. School districts are eligible for a significant share of the grants. The EPA is currently doing outreach to help potential applicants. [Learn more](#)

These grants will be fast tracked. The announcement will be made by mid-March. Applicants will have 30 days to respond. Awards will be made in 60 days. As you can see, it's essential that applicants start preparing themselves now to take advantage of these opportunities.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- **JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR Northern Calif contractors.** An energy efficiency/green retrofit startup, Places Green, is looking for experienced energy auditors to perform both residential and nonresidential energy audits in the Bay Area. Initially these will be contract positions paying competitive wages with the possibility of moving into full time employment in the near term. Interested parties should be experienced in conducting both basic and detailed audits. For residential, we are looking for auditors who have been trained in the Energy Star Home Performance house as a system process of evaluation. For nonresidential, we are interested in auditors who have experience in developing: energy conservation measures related to HVAC, lighting, building envelope and other; load management strategies; and operations and maintenance

improvements. Funding for continuing education will be available for certifications such as: BPI certifications, LEED AP certification, Green Point Rating certification.

If interested, please contact Heidi Young, President of GreenUp Squad, at heidi@whatsmyco2.com or 415/750-1231. Positions to start April

- **SoCal Contractors JOB OPPORTUNITIES:** The California Air Resources Board (ARB), through its Innovative Clean Air Technology (ICAT) program, is sponsoring an 80-unit demonstration project in Southern California. All existing SWH installers are welcome to participate in this program. Free installer training will be provided by Davis Energy Group, who is administering this program. PV installers and plumber contractors not currently installing SWH systems are also encouraged to participate. [More Info](#)

Training

- At **SCE's energy centers**, AGTAC and CTAC, you'll find the information, training, and support. Both facilities offer basic and advanced classes on lighting, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), motors, and refrigeration. These courses are available throughout SCE's service territory. Additionally, there are classes offered focusing on power quality, demand response, electrical safety, and food service technologies. [Classes](#)
- California Energy Commission's Energy Code **Online Training Website** This site provides video training on a variety of energy code and related building science issues, and offers guidance on the design and construction of efficient, durable and sustainable buildings in California. Code Training Online is divided into sections for ease of navigation and includes the Residential Code, Energy Code, HVAC, Building Envelope and more. Each "Resource" module is comprised of training videos, plus additional related resource links including the actual Code and other documents. [Online Training](#)
- Pure Air Control Services Environmental Diagnostics Laboratory offers free Webinars on "IAQ/Mold 101 - Benefits of IAQ Screening" (CEU's available). [To Register...](#)

Festivals, Home Shows, etc.

We're looking for a few good contractors who would like to educate the public about Home Performance and CBPCA, hone your presentation skills, network w/ other CBPCA professionals, and hopefully get new clients.

Please [let me know](#) if you are interested in participating in any of these (or any others in your area) and I will try to get a free booth and send you banners. Also let me know if you would like to be considered a speaker at the event and I will submit the request.

- April 19, Balboa Park, San Diego · 10am - 5pm. The annual **EarthFair** (<http://www.earthdayweb.org/>) "is the largest free annual environmental fair in the world." EarthFair 2009 will be their 20th anniversary - the 40th anniversary of Earth Day! Each

year, the EarthFair draws around 70,000 visitors.

- [Go Green America Expo](#), MAY 15- 17, 2009, San Mateo County Event Center, is a show devoted to a more sustainable lifestyle for both consumers and businesses. An outstanding opportunity to see the state-of-the-art technologies, products and services available today which better serve our natural world.

From their website: "We welcome all companies & organizations that offer clean energy solutions, as well as renewable energy industries and eco-friendly products & services. It is our goal to create a larger demand for the "greener" products that are available today. We encourage you to join us in the effort to spread the awareness of a more eco-friendly way of living."

Miscellaneous

Don't forget to tell your customers who have single pane windows that heavy / thermal drapes will reduce their energy costs and will increase their comfort level tremendously. I've had a number of homeowners call who couldn't afford to replace the windows but hadn't considered the impact of drapes. Believe me, they'll appreciate your advice!

Resources

- [Marketing ideas for Raters and Contractors](#)
- Drought Recommendations from the California Landscape Contractors Association's [Water Wise](#)
- CEC's overview of what California will be getting from the stimulus package, what the rules will be, etc. It will be updated as more information unfolds. [CEC Update](#)

Industry Highlights

UPDATED BCAP STATE CODE STATUS MAPS

The Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP) is proud to unveil its new code status maps for residential and commercial building energy codes. Each map includes a new color scheme and revised legends, simplifying comparisons of codes across states.

You can view their new commercial map and residential map on the BCAP website, as well as download JPEG and PDF versions of each map. Check out the [BCAP](#) website for news, events, state code status information, code adoption maps, our Policy Action Tool, and more!

**'Far and away the best prize that life offers is
the chance to work hard at work worth doing.'
-- Theodore Roosevelt**

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Past newsletters posted at: www.cbpca.org/contractors/news.html

Please forward this newsletter to others you think may be interested.

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