The Western North Carolina Green Building Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote environmentally sustainable and health conscious building practices through community education.

WNCGBC
PO Box 8427
Asheville, NC 28814
www.wncgbc.org

Simply fill out the form below and mail in with your membership dues. (dues are for one year membership)

Name _____________________________________
Title ______________________________________
Affiliation _____________________________________
Address ___________________________________
__________________________________________
City _______________________________________
State ___________ Zip _______________________
Phone _____________________________________
e-mail _____________________________________
Date ______________________________________

Membership categories:
• Student $15
• Individual $35
• Nonprofit $50
• Business $100
• Silver Level Sponsor $250
• Gold Level Sponsor $500
• Platinum Level Sponsor $1000

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Marcus Renner,
President
Rob Moody,
Vice-President
Gayle Jann,
Secretary
Maggie Leslie,
Treasurer

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A Week At The Beech (Mountain)
by Matt Siegel

At noon on October 18, 2004 fourteen renewable energy enthusiasts emerged from a small classroom into the fog, blowing wind and cold to begin their mission. They would, over the next four days, be working to raise a wind turbine on Beech Mountain near Boone, NC as part of Appalachian State University’s Small Wind Initiative workshop. (www.wind.appstate.edu)

As someone who was relatively unfamiliar with wind energy, except for driving past the giant turbines swirling in the wind, I was eager to learn more about the topic. The event was organized by the Small Wind Initiative, a program that promotes the development and use of wind energy in the Appalachian region. The workshop was aimed at introducing people to the basics of wind energy and providing hands-on experience with wind turbines.

The first turbine we put up was a 2004 Air X model, made by Southwest Windpower (www.windenergy.com). The workshop was led by a certified instructor from Sunworkshops, a company that specializes in teaching people how to install and maintain wind turbines. The instructor emphasized the importance of proper installation and maintenance, which is crucial for maximizing the efficiency and longevity of wind turbines.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the opportunity to work with real wind turbines. We had the chance to install and remove the turbines, which was an exciting and rewarding experience. The instructor also showed us how to use the turbines for electricity generation, which is an important aspect of wind energy.

The workshop was a great introduction to wind energy, but there is much more to learn about this field. The Small Wind Initiative is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about wind energy and getting involved in this exciting field.
WNCGBC Annual Meeting Summary
January 22, 2005; 12:00 - 5:00, NC Arboretum

Welcome
Boone Guyton welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and thanked certain members for their contributions to the WNCGBC during 2004. Boone noted that Terry Albrecht and Jake Gilmer will be co-facilitating the meeting.

NC HealthyBuilt Homes Program
Dona Stankus reviewed the accomplishments of the NC HealthyBuilt Homes Program over the past year. She noted that there were three HealthyBuild houses completed and that the Millenium Solar Roofs Initiative has grown tremendously. She also reviewed the new Homes Green cupboard program for new and existing homes.

Board Nominations and Election of Officers
Boone Guyton circulated a list of board nominations and officers for the membership to vote upon. Written votes were submitted and the following were elected unanimously.

President - Marcus Renner, Vice President - Rob Moody, Treasurer - Maggie Leslie, Secretary - Gayle Jann, Jake Gilmer, Richard Soderquist, Christopher Dorin, Boone Guyton, Traci Kearns, Daniel Asher, and Maggie Carnevale.

Review of 2004 Accomplishments
Mary Love presented highlights of the Council's accomplishments during 2004. Highlights included:

- Construction of Prospect Terrace (pilot of HBH Standards)
- Completion of HBH local opportunities checklist
- Million Solar Roofs Initiative (MSRI)
- Green Building Forums
- Green Building Directory
- WNCGBC website improvements
- Partnerships with other organizations (NC Solar Center, Home Builders Association, NC Arboretum, NC Green Power, Board of Realtors, Neighborhood Housing Services, Mountain Housing Opportunities.
- Completion of first WNCGBC Business Plan

Membership: Growing Members, Involvement, and Enthusiasm
Maggie Leslie briefly described the current status of the WNCGBC membership. She noted that we currently have over 70 members and are growing and that we are making progress in terms of membership growth and interest. She also noted that we have several new members following our forum and the release of the Green Building Directory.

A WEEK AT THE BEECH - continued from page 1
Quiet operation I decided to camp out under the turbines and hear for myself. Even with high wind speeds I could barely hear the turbine running and had a great night's sleep. Any audible sound was no more than one and a half times the current energy needs of the entire country. What are we waiting for?
UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7, 2005 WNCGBC Social Meeting
Asheville, NC @ Jack of the Wood
- 5:30 contact www.wncgbc.org

March 10, 2005 WNCGBC Social Meeting
Asheville, NC @ Jack of the Wood
- 5:30 contact www.wncgbc.org

March 21-22, 2005 2nd Annual Sustainable Energy Conference
Raleigh, NC @ McKimmon Conference Center, NCSU
contact (919)515-2261

April 4, 2005 WNCGBC Council Board and Committee Pre-Meeting
Asheville, NC @ Land of Sky
- 4:45 contact www.wncgbc.org

April 4, 2005 WNCGBC General Membership Meeting
Asheville, NC @ Land of Sky
- 5:30 contact www.wncgbc.org

April 14, 2005 WNCGBC Social Meeting
Asheville, NC @ Jack of the Wood
- 5:30 contact www.wncgbc.org

Links to more upcoming events and lots of useful information:

• ASU SOLAR ENERGY SOCIETY free workshop series:
  www.appstate.edu/www_docs/student/clubs/solar/workshops.html

• CAROLINA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION:

• NC SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION:

• NC SOLAR CENTER:
  www.ncsc.ncsu.edu

• SOUTHERN ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY:

• SOUTH FACE ENERGY INSTITUTE:

• WNC ALLIANCE:

& of course the WNCGBC:
www.wncgbc.org

Jake Gilmer then led the group through a facilitated discussion exploring the characteristics of current and future members. The group identified that membership of the Council falls into several broad categories, based on the expectations or needs:

Non-Industry: The non-industry members expect that the Council will provide them with educational opportunities, publicity, positive brand affiliation, furtherance of mission, access to information and training, and purchasing discounts.

Information and Education: Members in this category expect that the Council will provide them with continuing education units (CEUs), newsletters, information hotline, forums, a directory, website, tours and field trips, and green building certification.

Political and Governmental: These members expect the Council to provide access to its membership, experience, succinct information, support for the incorporation of GB into building codes, and information on green building model homes.

Best Efforts of the WNCGBC
The group was asked to jot down the top three activities that the GBC conducted in 2004 to meet its mission.

Best of 2004 (for meeting the GBC mission) The top 5 vote getters were Forums, Directory, SEECA/Home House, Tours, and NC HealthyBuilt Homes Program.

2005 (Suggested Top Priority)
Dear Members,

The New Year is well underway and we are excited about the possibilities for the future and driven by the accomplishments of 2004. Fueled by the accomplishments of the past year, Rob Moody and I are rising to the challenge to make 2005 even better for the Western North Carolina Green Building Council!

Introductions first; during the annual meeting at the Arboretum in January, the membership elected myself, Marcus Renner, as President and Rob Moody as Vice president of the Council.

Rob Moody is president of The EcoBuilders, an Asheville area green builder. Rob has a background in environmental science which he explains runs parallel with green building. Also a member of the... in BlackMountain, the home was recently on the Parade of Homes and is a shining star for the green building industry.

I am President of Appropriate Building Solutions, Inc. a sustainable construction company in Asheville and Boone. I currently also teach sustainable construction classes at Appalachian State University... of the Green Building Council into the High Country as well as supporting its growing strength in the Asheville area.

Among the many goals that your Green Building Council plans to achieve this year are a membership drive and increased name recognition. An organization is only as strong as its members, and we are... and brighten your day knowing that you are supporting and progressing something that is right, just and true.

Within this newsletter is a calendar of events. We have changed the meeting structure and invite our members to attend the membership meetings that will be held every other month. This meeting will... we do and volunteer a small amount of your time on a committee (its fun and we don't want to keep it a secret any more!).

We are currently asking the community to support the Green Building Council. To achieve our goal of developing a Green Building Resource Center. The Center would... renovate. The new construction however will absolutely be left open as an option if a good opportunity becomes available.

The plan for making this a reality began as a search for grants that could be used to purchase the building. From the extensive research being done, that is looking less likely to come to fruition. Many of the... funds on more urgent issues. Therefore, we have decided to look to our members and community to help us achieve our goal.

This will be an exciting and fun hands-on project that we hope will build enthusiasm for environmentally sustainable building in our region. There will be opportunities to learn, firsthand how to build or... efficient to builders just being introduced to advanced framing techniques, the Center will be a learning tool for all.

We are currently asking the community to support this effort in a number of ways:

1. Direct cash donations to the Green Building Council so that it can begin to form a capital campaign.
2. Zero or very low interest loans with long term and/or delayed payback periods that could be used to purchase... be paid back with a modest return on their money and the GBC would generate funds from the improvements to the property.

Of course all gifts are tax-deductible. All substantial gifts and investment will be recognized with significant promotion and publicity.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the WNC Green Building Council in one or more of these ways please contact Matt Siegel at either 828-232-5080 or...@wncgbc.org.

After 4 years of incredibly hard work on the part of many volunteers we feel as if now is the time for us to grow and secure our place in the community that we believe we have served well.

Let’s get on to work and once more, make 2005 another great year for the Western North Carolina Green Building Council and for all of our efforts to protect our environment and improve the quality of life for everyone in our region.

Sincerely,

[Letter from the President]
Public Forums in 2004 and Beyond

by Ashley Featherstone, Forum Committee

The Western North Carolina Green Building Council (WNCGBC) holds four public forums each year on topics related to environmentally sustainable and healthy building practices in our area. The public forums on selected green building topics have successfully provided educational and networking opportunities here in WNC.

In 2004, forums were held on various topics including smart growth in WNC, You Can Afford to Go Solar, Building Science, Energy Efficient Mortgages, and a panel discussion on green building and affordable housing. The forum on smart growth earned credits for the smart growth forum, and engineers and architects earned credits for attending the solar technology forum.

The final three 2004 forums were held in conjunction with The HOME House Project, featuring an exhibit and related activities presented by Neighborhood Green. A panel discussion on green building and affordable housing was held in the atrium of the City of Asheville Public Works Building from September 17th through October 26th.

Other past forum topics have included insulation, indoor air quality, landscaping with native plants, and building green in WNC. The topic of the first quarter 2005 forum is low impact development with an emphasis on green building and storm water management, including continuing education credits for engineers, architects, and landscape architects.

Future forum topics may include NC Healthy Built Homes Program, radon resistant new construction, natural building methods including straw bale and others, and historic preservation including green building retrofits. Please check our website at www.wncgbc.org for the latest information on upcoming forums. If you have ideas about related topics that you would like to see at an upcoming WNCGBC forum, or if you are interested in forum sponsorship opportunities, please e-mail the forum committee at forum@wncgbc.org, or call the Green Building Hotline at (828) 232-5080.

The WNCGBC would like to thank the 2004 forum sponsors listed below.

- Heartwood Renovation
- Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- Earth Fare
- Million Solar Roofs Initiative
- Home Energy Partners
- AIA Asheville
- Appropriate Building Solutions
- North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
- Chris Pelly of Keller Williams Professionals
- Verdi/se Architects
- Glazer Architecture, P.A.
- North Carolina Solar Center
- Samsel Architects, P.A.
- Whole Sales Glass & Mirror
- North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association
- Wheelhouse Photo

Looking for Local Sustainably Produced Wood?

We are local folks producing sustainably-harvested wood and wood products, and we want to create an easy way to connect with builders, crafters, and anyone else buying wood. We'll send out occasional emails about new green building projects, products, and other opportunities to get involved in sustainable building.

If you're interested in purchasing local sustainably produced wood or have ideas for using our wood in your next project, contact Alyx at 828-277-9008, alyx@southernseeds.org

Do You Have News?

If you have building related news to share, please note the deadline to contribute in the newsletter: October 7th.
Energy Management Program Will Save Money and Improve Air Quality

Thousands of computer monitors in our region will automatically go to "sleep" when they aren't in use – a move that will save money and reduce air pollution.

The governments of Buncombe County and the City of Asheville, as well as Warren Wilson College, the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, Basofil Fibers, BorgWarner Turbo Systems, ... ten organizations was held on January 10, 2005 at the offices of the Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency.

The program, part of the ENERGYSTAR® "Sleep Is Good" Million Monitor Drive campaign, uses free software jointly developed by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to automatically power down computers when not in use.

With 2,813 local computer monitors scheduled to be automatically powered down when not in use, that's enough of an energy savings to light 857 homes for a year. Not only will each organization save money (up to $10,000), but 36,000 pounds of carbon dioxide will be eliminated by over 9 tons, and a whopping one thousand tons of greenhouse gas emissions from these plants will also be eliminated.

Close to half of the energy used by computers is wasted, given that over 60% of computers are left on all night and nearly half of all monitors are not enabled for power management. On average, computers are used 20% of the time, but continue to run 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, using 5% of the total energy consumed by U.S. homes.

Other local organizations who are interested in this program and free software can contact the Western North Carolina Regional Air Quality Agency at 255-5655, or click on their website at www.wncair.org.

If your organization would like to join the local Million Monitor Drive, please contact the Agency and submit a pledge for m. Since most home computers have a power management feature, local residents who want to save electricity with their home computers should ensure that this feature is activated. Instructions on how to enable monitor power management manually on individual computers are available at: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=pm_enable_pr_pm_home_enable

For General information about Monitor Power Management, including links for the free software: http://www.energystar.gov/powermanagement/quickcalc.html

Calculate cost savings and pollution reductions for enabling power management features on multiple computer monitors and hard drives: http://pmdb.cadm.usgbc.com/powermanagement/quickcalc.html

Learn more about the national Million Monitor Drive: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=pm_mmd.pr_pm_mmd

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USGBC Releases Draft Report On PVC

The USGBC's Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) has released a public comment draft of its long-awaited report on polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Commissioned to determine the availability and quality of the evidence on the environmental performance of PVC-based materials, the report concludes that PVC is consistently worse than alternative materials on a life-cycle environmental and health basis.

TSAC's PVC Task group chose to compare PVC-based materials with their most likely alternatives for several key applications (resilient flooring, siding, windows, and drain-waste-vent pipe) to see if PVC is the most environmentally sound choice. The analysis was performed using a number of systems approaches to compare physical properties, energy use, toxicity, and other life-cycle issues. LCA analysis was supplemented by a targeted study of health risks from occupational exposures.

To assess the availability and quality of the evidence, the Task Group also created a database of nearly 2,500 relevant reports, papers, and other source materials. Comments on the report should be submitted to the USGBC until February 14.

The complete draft report is available at: http://pvc.buildinggreen.com

Full text: http://www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm?fileName=140104a.xml

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