

**From:** SustainLane Government  
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Advancing Sustainability  
March 1, 2007

## Greetings!

Welcome to the latest issue of [SustainLane Government's](#) newsletter. Here's what's new in March 2007.

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## Advances Everywhere



Which municipalities have the largest percentage of **Alternative Fuel Vehicles** in the country? Find out next week when SustainLane Government publishes its latest Top Ten report—this one examines municipal fleets in the fifty largest cities nationwide to determine which local governments are getting around on clean juice. The report will

be available on Monday, March 5, at [SustainLane Government](#).

In the meantime, check out our related study on **Cleantech Incubation Clusters**, [available now](#). We examined those US cities that are doing the most in terms of clustering Cleantech activities in place so that residents can benefit directly with jobs and services in research, testing, financing, and—most importantly—pilot implementation of sustainability advances.

Also check out the [Green California Summit in Sacramento](#) (March 13-14). This is the first state event that we've heard about that is dedicated to bringing together state and local government officials and companies

## Quick Links...

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working together in sustainable development across all sectors. SustainLane Government's Warren Karlenzig will present March 13 at 11 a. m. on California city results from the SustainLane US City Rankings, and SustainLane will be hosting a booth along with 200+ other exhibitors at this event.

## Green building adoption rate soars in U.S. cities

Cities across the continent are bringing green building into the mainstream through mandates and the trend is only accelerating.

In November 2006, the town of Babylon, New York adopted the Northeast's first building code that requires all new industrial, commercial and multi-residential structures above 4,000 sq. ft. to meet the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Environment and Energy (LEED) Certified status.



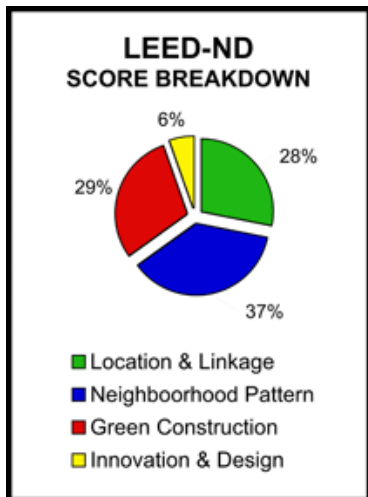
In December 2006, Boston followed suit with a new ordinance requiring that all buildings over 50,000 square feet be certified by the USGBC's LEED standard.

Also in December, Washington, D.C. passed its own set of requirements for new construction. Using guidelines from its Green Building Act of 2006, the city is requiring new residential buildings over 10,000 sq. ft. to meet or exceed "[Green Communities 2006](#)" standards where construction is at least 15% publicly financed. The Green Building Act also extends various strictures to commercial construction and provides the groundwork for future incentives.

As of January this year, the city of Plano, Texas is well on its way to institutionalizing green building, as City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck announced that [all future municipal construction will be LEED certified](#). Back in October 2006, Plano began developing Green Building Program workshops, and training for developers, general contractors and architects, part of a multi-phase plan to roll green building into city codes and new construction approvals.

These cities are just the tip of the iceberg. According to the [US Green Building Council](#), which tracks government mandates for implementing LEED construction, "legislation, executive orders, resolutions, ordinances, policies, and incentives are found in 53 cities, 10 counties, 17 states, 33 schools, and 11 federal agencies across the United States and Canada."

## The U.S. Green Building Council Launches LEED for Neighborhood Development



[Congress for the New Urbanism](#) and the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) have partnered with the [US Green Building Council](#) to develop the newest LEED Certification Program, LEED for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND), which seeks to change the way community designers and urban planners conduct business.

LEED-ND integrates the principles of smart growth, mixed-use building and Transit Oriented Development into a well-articulated point system for neighborhood design.

The system awards points in areas such as: proximity to open space, transit facilities, local food, schools, and jobs; mixed-use, mixed-income, mixed density neighborhoods with varied housing types; green construction and technology.

The pilot program will undergo a series of public forums and work groups before the formal launch date in 2009.

To learn more about the basis for LEED-ND, check out the LEED-ND [Public Health Report](#), which examines the correlation between community health and neighborhood design. See also the U.S. Green Building Council's [official website](#) on LEED.

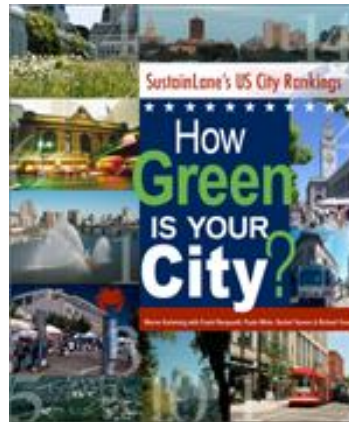
### Recent News and Noteworthy Resources In Green Building

- Forbes documents [America's Greenest Buildings](#) in photographs.
- New Interactive [Sustainability Planning Tools!](#) GEMI Releases SD Planner Gateway.
- Developing Green Technology: Renzo Piano Creates "[A Model for Green Design](#)" in San Francisco.
- **Need Facts?** The [NRDC](#) answers frequently asked green building questions.
- Trying to implement Environmentally Preferable Purchasing decisions? Check out [Green Seal for guidance and information](#).
- **Tools for Life Cycle Analysis** are also available online: Download

software for the [Federal Energy Management Program](#), developed by the National Institute of Building Sciences Building Life-Cycle Cost programs. Check out the web tools at the [International Design Center for the Environment](#), a scientifically robust and efficient lifecycle analysis of common materials. And the [Whole Building Design Guide](#), developed by the National Institute of Building Sciences, provides a variety of life cycle cost and assessment tools.

### **The 100th Best Practice Wins a Prize!!!**

We're nearing 100 Best Practices in our Knowledge Base. Thanks to all the cities, counties, and states that have contributed program documentation. We thought it'd be fun to throw a prize into the mix—so, yeah, the 100th Best Practice gets a free copy of our book [How Green Is Your City](#), coming in March!



### **Featured Best Practice: Green Affordable Housing Guide**

For this issue we're pleased to highlight a handbook on Green Affordable Housing developed by hundredyear, a consulting group in Indianapolis. The handbook, an excellent primer on green building, summarizes the salient issues and provides a wealth of links.

Included here is a short section of the booklet that describes, "About This Guide." For the handbook in full please visit the [Green Building](#) section at SustainLane Government:

*A Community Guide to Green Affordable Housing in Indianapolis* is an introduction to green building concepts aimed at community leaders, developers, builders and lenders working on affordable housing projects in Indianapolis. The purpose of this guide is not to serve as a technical "How To" manual, but rather as a touch point and springboard for further discussion and investigation. This guide addresses the common "What and Why" questions surrounding the topic of green building and includes references and links to a wealth of additional resources available in print and on the web.

The information in this guide is a distillation of building science research, hands-on experience, objective case study analyses, and candid conversations with affordable housing developers, contractors, funders, lenders, city employees, and community development professionals working in Indianapolis and elsewhere. Information gleaned from these key informant interviews has helped to inform both the content and format of this guide. The resource pages include references to books, periodicals, as well as links to online content such as white papers, industry and advocacy groups, education and resource centers, conferences and events, government agencies, and more.

Like green building, successful community revitalization is a holistic process. It is my hope that this primer will serve as a common reference point as well as a point of departure for community leaders and community and economic development professionals that wish to integrate green building principles into their workday toolbox. I am also hopeful that the ideas presented in this guide will catalyze further conversation and community action as we chart a path toward making Indianapolis a world-class *green city*.

**To obtain this guidebook and other Best Practices please visit [SustainLane Government](#).**

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