

LEED-certified - Florida To Survey Green Jobs Created At E3 Building Sciences and Other Consulting Firms

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E3 Building Sciences has already created green consulting positions as the state?s first private-sector LEED for Homes Provider for the U.S. Green Building Council.

?We have nearly doubled in size since last year as the market has demanded high-performance buildings that lower utility bills and maintenance costs,? said Ben Millar, director of business development at E3.

E3 Building Sciences is consulting on several LEED affo

rdable housing projects, including Mirabella in Miami-Dade County and the Moses White in Tampa, as well as the LEED mid-rise project, Lil Abner in Miami.

Five states have already surveyed the green labor force and found 1 percent to 3 percent of the total employment in their states could be considered new green positions.

Florida will survey educators, consultants and lobbyists, among others, according to Rebecca Rust of Workforce Florida. Job title decisions were based on a 2009 report from the Sustainability/Infrastructure Committee of Workforce Florida, Inc.

Federal stimulus funding has fueled growth in green residences, according to Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), which distributes funding and tax credits to qualified developers but now requires green aspects in new applications.

The FHFC wants affordable housing residents to live in healthy, comfortable, durable and affordable homes. Historically, low-income residents spend 19.5% of their income on utilities, while the middle class only spend 4.5%.

There are environmental benefits too. Buildings account for 68 percent of electricity consumption, 39 percent of energy use, 38 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 40 percent of raw material use, and 12 percent of drinkable water, the EPA reports.

Nancy Muller, FHFC policy director, says greener homes make financial sense. ?Not only does green building mean lower utility bills for homeowners, [but also] it means reduced operating expenses for apartment complex owners, which is important when rents are kept down to serve Florida?s lower income renters,? Mueller said.

Last June, Pew Charitable Trust released, ?The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering Jobs, Business, and Investments across America.? Pew reported, renewable energy jobs expanded at twice the rate of all other jobs created, while average job growth overall was 3.7 percent.

E3 Building Sciences provides engineering, consulting, certification and testing services to building professionals and owners. <http://www.E3GreenBuilding.com/>



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