

Lightly Treading Community Newsletter

May 2010



May's Green Fact

According to the U.S. EPA, Americans spend \$25 billion a year on lawn care. Residential lawns and gardens are doused with 80 million pounds of chemical pesticides and 70 million tons of fertilizers annually. Read more at [The Daily Green](#). Consider their [tips](#) on how to save time and money on your lawn as you pull out the gardening tools for 2010.

May Announcements and Resources

Home Star Passes

The U.S. of Representatives [passed H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010](#). The bill passed on Tuesday May 6th with a vote of 246 to 161 with bi-partisan support. The bill will pay thousands of dollars in rebates over a two year period. It now moves to the Senate. Bill [details](#).

GEO Rebate Program: Recharge Colorado

Rebates for energy upgrades and retrofits are available at www.RechargeColorado.com. Over 25,000 rebates have already been reserved. Many of the rebates have short deadlines and the 30 day deadline for early registrants is closing for many. Act fast if this is you.

Rebates exist to further [discount the cost of your energy audit](#). Rebates range from \$25 - \$100 depending on the audit cost. Click [here](#) for more details.

GEO awards \$800K in Recovery-Act funded New Energy grants

Grants were awarded to two of Lightly Treading's auditing partners. Congratulations to GB3 Energy Solutions and Chinook Energy. See the full press release [here](#).

Europe Finds Cleaner Energy Source by Burning Trash – NYTimes.com

Far cleaner than conventional incinerators, this new type of plant converts local trash into heat and electricity. Dozens of filters catch pollutants, from mercury to dioxin, that would have emerged from its smokestack only a decade ago. [More](#).

Need a Hand?

Visit PATH. It is an online resource for homeowners, homebuyers, and the home building industry that includes various case studies, technology profiles, and links to useful articles. [Link](#).

Another option, the Green Home Guide, published by the U.S. Green Building Council includes an interactive, "ask a pro," along with a broad range of resources. [Website](#).

5280 Magazine and Xcel Energy Home Energy Audit Sweepstakes

In conjunction with the 5280 Magazine, Xcel Energy is hosting a sweepstakes and rewarding 3 lucky clients with an Infrared Energy audit. ([Flier](#)).

2010 Boulder Tour of Solar and Green Homes is looking for houses

Learn more [here](#). Make sure you contact the Center for Resource Conservation soon, applications are due Friday June 4th!

Meeker Park Community Forestry Sort yard open

Boulder County opened the Meeker Park community forestry sort yard on Tuesday, May 4. For the third year in a row, residents of Boulder and Larimer counties can use the site at no charge to drop off trees and slash from private lands. The sort yard will remain open through mid-July.

Careers and Trainings

Colorado Green Jobs: Playing it Safe

Monday June 7th, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Free: registration required. [Link](#)

Symposium on integrating safe OSHA practices in the growing green jobs industry hosted by the Rocky Mountain Education Center at Red Rocks Community College. Lightly Treading Principal Paul Kriescher will be a panel speaker.

BPI Building Analyst Trainings:

HOME STAR legislation, scheduled to pass in June, will require BPI certification for auditors and home improvement contractors. Lightly Treading has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Education Center (RMEC) at Red Rocks Community College to offer a monthly 5 day long BPI Building Analyst preparation class supplemented with online course material. Building Analyst certification will prepare you for working as an energy auditor as well as in the home improvement industry, teaching you the details of building science and how the house works as a system. Click [here](#) for pricing and schedule details. Registration for the July 12-16th class is not open, please register ASAP to secure your seat. Call Michelle Asher today to register 303-914-6420

LEED Green Associate Exam Preparatory Class

\$195, Monthly classes May - October

The intention of the class is to prepare students for successful completion of the LEED Green Associate exam and instill fundamentals of sustainability concepts and practices. Contact the Rocky Mountain Education Center for class dates, details and registration at 303-914-6420 or visit their [website](#).

BGBG's: Green Building 101 for Professionals

June 18th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

The class is a densely packed 8-hour primer on residential green building basics, and also teaches you how to meet the rigorous City of Boulder and Boulder County green building codes. Visit the BGBG's [website](#) for additional details, costs and registration.

Certified Passive House Consultants

In August of this year, the Passive House Institute, US will begin a series of classes to train building professionals in Passive House design techniques. This series of three 3-day long classes will start on August 12 and end in October. The goal of these classes is to enable participants to gain the knowledge necessary to become "Certified Passive House Consultants." The classes will be taught at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden. Details about the class can be obtained by following this link:

<http://www.passivehouse.us/passiveHouse/PHIUSConsultantsTraining.html>

Upcoming Community Events

Wilderness Open Houses with Rep. Jared Polis

Boulder (June 1st), Edwards (June 3), Breckenridge (June 4)

The Hidden Gems wilderness campaign is seeking designation of major new wilderness additions on the White River and Gunnison National Forests and nearby Bureau of Land Management lands. Rep. Polis is hosting open houses to take public input on the proposal which would create several brand-new, standalone wilderness areas, while significantly enlarging our existing wildernesses. Please come share your voice. For details, times, and location specifics follow this [link](#).

[Efficiency First](#)

May 27th – Berthoud, at Energy Logic Office

USGBC Colorado First Monday Meetings

1st Monday of the Month; REI Denver; [details](#)

Sustainability Series

1st Tuesday of the Month @ 6:00 pm ; Wynkoop Brewery; [details](#)

June 1st- Institute for the Built Environment

July 6th- The Solar Panel

August 3rd- The UrbanAg Panel

Guided Tour of Historical Crestmoor Park

May 22nd; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The tour is guided by Denver's Old House Society. Crestmoor Park is rich in architectural and historic information. Tickets cost \$10 each. [Registration](#) will begin April 15.

EarthWorks Expo 2010 -- CANCELLED

May 22-23; Denver Merchandise Mart

Mountain Area Home & Garden Show

May 22-23; Evergreen High School

Click [here](#) for details

Boulder Green Building Guild: Product and Service Fair

June 5; Boulder Central Park; FREE

A great opportunity to meet local green businesses and find out what they have to offer. There will be an "Ask an Expert" booth for you to get the chance to talk to an expert about your various green questions.

2010 National Cohousing Conference

June 18-20; Boulder, CO

Early Bird Registration ends March 31st; click [here](#) for details and registration.

The Cohousing Association of the United States (Coho/US) announces its 16th conference. This conference will be held at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Pre-conference workshops – known as Cohousing University – will take place June 16-17, 2010, with the conference running June 18-20, 2010.

Resources

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado – [Sustainability Calendar of Events](#)

[Boulder Green Building Guild](#) (BGBG)

[Center for Resource Conservation](#) (CRC)

[Colorado Renewable Energy Society](#) (CRES)

Don't Forget

Xcel Energy sponsored energy efficiency presentations are available for free to Xcel Energy customers, groups of ten or more. Call LT to set one up. See Lightly Treading's [website](#) for a schedule of local presentations.

Thank you for being a part of our grassroots community.

Sincerely,

Paul Kriescher, Principal
And the Staff of Lightly Treading

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