



Up in your grill

Love to BBQ? Propane burns much cleaner than either wood or charcoal briquettes.



Learn the **Green Lingo**: Greyfields

Greyfield is a relatively new term sometimes given to commercially developed sites that are in a state of underutilization or are otherwise vacant. Common examples are vacant strip malls and abandoned commercial or industrial property. Greyfields are often unsightly, contribute to urban blight, and present stormwater management concerns as they are oftentimes largely impervious.

Redevelopment of greyfield sites helps preserve virgin land, curbs urban sprawl, and can contribute to the economic, social, and environmental benefits sought by sustainable development and triple bottom line accounting. Additionally, greyfield sites don't often have the environmental burdens that brownfield projects do, making them an attractive smart growth alternative.

Green Product of the Month: Lumboo

"Cali Bamboo, a maker of bamboo flooring and other products since 2004, launched Lumboo, a product line of dimensional bamboo lumber, in March 2010. Like other bamboo wood products currently sold, Lumboo is manufactured by gluing strips of bamboo together into a block. The company has not firmly settled on a binder despite the fact that Lumboo is in production, but he said it will probably be phenol-formaldehyde-based and urea-formaldehyde-free." (Building Green.com)

"Lumboo **has not** undergone formal testing for code listing from the International Code Council (ICC) and is currently being sold by Cali Bamboo for fencing" (Building Green.com)

<http://www.calibamboo.com>

Green Current Events: Solar Power

If you think you need to live in a hot, highly sunny climate to make solar power work - think again? States in the Northeast, including New Jersey and New York, have been especially proactive over the past couple of years in building up their respective solar resources, even though neither state is particularly known for its sunshine.

National Grid recently completed its new one-megawatt solar generation facility in Whitinsville, Ma. The solar site is the first utility-owned solar generation facility in service under the Commonwealth's 2008 Green Communities Act. In October 2009, National Grid announced that it would build and operate five utility-owned solar generation facilities yielding approximately 5 megawatts of power total.

The project is expected to cost less than \$6.5 million or approximately a penny per month for the average residential Massachusetts customer over the 20-year life of the project.

Whitinsville Solar System by the numbers:

- 4,683 solar panels, each rated at 210 watts, covering approximately two acres.
- Each panel weighs 41 lbs and measures 65"x37.5"x1.8".
- The system is capable of generating 983,430 kilowatts, enough to serve nearly 200 homes annually.
- The system is anticipated to reduce carbon gas by approximately 1.3 million lbs each year, the equivalent of annually removing more than 400 passenger cars from the road.

<http://www.brighterenergy.org/11075/news/solar/national-grid-opens-largest-solar-plant-in-massachusetts/>

Green at Pare

Recently, Cari Powers, P.E. LEED AP and Scott Lindgren, P.E. LEED AP held presentations at the Lincoln and Foxboro offices for an introduction to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

USGBC is a non-profit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC administers the LEED rating system program, certifying the design and construction of new and renovated building projects.

Currently, PARE has over eight different projects either certified or going through the LEED certification process. Notable projects include: URI Hope Dining Hall, "Certified Silver", URI Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, "Certified Gold", and the Natick and Plymouth High Schools currently in the design/construction LEED process.

To become involved in USGBC and the LEED program, individuals can get involved in projects here at PARE that are LEED projects, become a "Green Associate" or a LEED Accredited Professional, or join a local USGBC organization chapter in Rhode Island or Massachusetts.

Interested individuals can ask Cari or Scott for more information or go to the following websites.

<http://www.usgbc.org>

<http://www.usgbc.org>

<http://www.usgbcma.org>

