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Green Lingo: Carbon Capture

The term “carbon capture” is often used to describe the process of collecting and storing carbon dioxide before it is emitted to the atmosphere. Also referred to as carbon sequestration, it is commonly used at power plants and other large point sources of carbon emissions. Typically the carbon dioxide emitted from these sources is collected and then injected deep underground where it is relatively harmless. Carbon capture proves to be an important tool in controlling our carbon emissions while alternative green energy sources continue to develop.

The Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF), an international group of participating nations, has advanced a great degree of research and has administered several carbon capture projects around the globe. For more information, visit their website at the following link: <http://www.cslforum.org>

- Brandon Blanchard



Green Product of the Month: “Green Holiday” Tips

- Energy saving holiday lights – Although a little more expensive than the conventional lighting, LED lights use 90% less energy, can save up to \$50 on your energy bills during the holiday season, and will last a lot longer than the conventional bulbs that you’re replacing once a year.
- Real trees vs. artificial trees – Buying a real tree and recycling it, or even better buying a potted tree and planting it during the spring, is better than purchasing a fake tree. A real tree, though not rapidly renewable is a sustainable bio-degradable resource. Fake trees usually come from China, are made with non-biodegradable materials or worse (toxic chemicals), normally end up in a landfill after several years, and have a much larger carbon footprint due to the manufacturing process and delivery halfway across the world.
- Wrapping Paper and Cards – Some statistics indicate as much as 85 million tons of paper products from Americans go towards packaging, wrapping, decorating, and cards annually. Some tips for wrapping paper include using old magazines, newspaper, comics, paper bags, butcher paper, etc. to wrap that special gift. Consider using actual popcorn rather than packing peanuts if you’re mailing the gift. For cards consider E-cards or recycled cards with special notes.

- Kevin Viveiros

Green at PARE

PARE attends GREENBUILD 2011 in Toronto

As you may remember from past Green Times Issues, **Greenbuild** is a conference hosted by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). It was hosted for the first time this year outside the United States. The 10th Annual Greenbuild conference drew approximately 23,000 participants to Toronto this October. Scott Lindgren and I were fortunate enough to participate in the conference, taking part in the educational seminars and learning about green design, practices and policy and LEED certification process. As you can see from the picture of the ‘Schedule at a Glance’ (in the far left column) there was never a dull moment.

In addition to educational sessions, knowledge bars, master speakers, and tours, there were 1,700 booths with exhibitors from Canada and the US showcasing green products and services. Topics ranged from LED lighting, indoor air quality, toxins in your everyday life, and even green designs for Habitat for Humanity. One of the startling facts that was given at one educational session was an average newborn baby is born with over 200 toxins in its body already. It really makes you think twice about what food you put into your body, what air you breathe, and what comes in contact with your body. Other sessions focused on diverting wastes from landfills and really made me think about the business of using, processing, and then selling recycled materials. One of the speakers, an owner of a recycling plant, takes the materials that are brought to his plant, processes recyclable materials, and sells them to businesses that can use recycled goods. A picture of this particular education session is shown to the left.

With over 100 educational sessions to choose from it helped Scott and I achieve our requirement for credentialing maintenance required to maintain our accreditations. The opening plenary displayed an impressive list of guests including a performance by Maroon 5 (shown to the left) and the Rt. Honorable Kim Campbell, Canada’s 19th Prime Minister who was one of the four panelists to open up the conference. The enthusiasm and support at Greenbuild truly is a testament to the fact that green design is supported, growing, and not going anywhere.

- Cari Orsi



Have a wonderful “Holiday Season” from the Sustainable Design Committee

Green Current Events: Boston's Hubway Program – Growth in Sustainable Urban Transportation

The first season of New Balance Hubway, Boston's new bike sharing program, is drawing to a close. After recording over 140,000 station-to-station rides in just four short months, Hubway will return this spring with 300 additional bikes and 30 new stations.

This expansion represents a 50% increase in Hubway's existing fleet. The program's unexpected popularity has created the need for additional stations in the city's most populated areas, as well as demand for Hubway to extend its reach into new communities. The City of Boston is working with the Mass Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and the Federal Transit Administration to expand the system into more Boston neighborhoods as well as the surrounding cities of Cambridge, Brookline and Somerville.

An \$85 annual fee allows the user unlimited use of the program's bicycles, which can be picked up and dropped off at any of the docking stations throughout Boston. Short-term, "casual" use of the bicycles can be obtained for \$5 per day.

You can read more about the program here:

<http://thehubway.com/>

<http://dc.streetsblog.org/2011/11/29/boston-to-expand-hubway-bike-share-after-brilliant-first-season/>

- Lauren Hastings

