

Dear Students and Other Colleagues,

I'm still elated over our Green Bison (**Corbin Gibson, Samuel Leu, Paula Smith**) being named one of the Top 12 in the Biomimicry Institute's Biomimicry Student Design Challenge. They're busily working (now with **Ron Taylor** as well) to prepare for judges' question in the final stage of the competition to see which Teams will be named to the top three slots. I have an idea the Lipscomb Green Bison will take all honors but send all your positive thoughts to these wonderful students! (And yes gang, I'm getting right back over to look at the schematics after this e-mail!)

On the heels of that announcement I read a piece from a colleague, Andy Sudbrock (owner of Southeast Green Roofs) who wrote this about his recent hire, Andrew who is a, "...Sales Specialist for Southeast Green Roofs. **Andrew Nickerson** is a recent graduate of Lipscomb University's MBA program with a Certificate in Sustainability. He is a LEED GA and will be taking the LEED AP exam in February 2012. Andrew's character, enthusiasm and experience make him a valuable and welcome addition to the Southeast Green Roofs team. (a.nickerson@southeastgreenroofs.com) [615-477-4657](tel:615-477-4657)" WAY TO GO ANDREW! We're so proud of you!

Then, I had a conversation with Steve Johnson who was prepping to guest lecture to our SU6003 class. He mentioned a young man and asked what I thought of him. The next time I saw Steve (in class) he tells me that Ron has joined his team. Yes, **Ron Taylor** began working at LightWave Solar as a Project Manager today. Ron has a Master's Degree in Sustainability from Lipscomb University, and worked as a Project Geologist for S&ME, Inc. in Nashville. Ron brings solid project management skills to LightWave Solar as well as integrity, professionalism and enthusiasm for solar energy (rtaylor@lightwavesolar.com [615-973-2344](tel:615-973-2344)). CONGRATULATIONS RON! We'll look forward to you bringing the sun into useful partnership with many home and business owners now that you're working with Steve!

In a day and time when we hear about so many negative things happening in the world. When hardships and economic strife can often feel like our closest neighbors, it gives me hope and great joy to interact with such an innovative, hard-working group of people who make up the current student population and alumni of the Lipscomb Institute of Sustainable Practice. Please, send in the details of the great things **you're doing for sustainability!** I'll share them with this newsletter list and we can celebrate together!

Now, lest you think I've turned over a leaf where I no longer include some kind of educational information in your newsletter, let me assuage your fears. Here's an article from the Alliance for Environmental Sustainability with their views on what will be happening in the next year. See what you think ...

10 green building predictions for 2012

Written by [Brett Little](#) // January 19, 2012 // [AES Local](#) // [2 Comments](#)

Earth Advantage Institute, a fellow nonprofit green building resource and LEED for Homes provider that has certified more than 12,000 homes, announced its annual prediction of 10 green building trends to watch in 2012 in a press release. AES seconds such predictions and puts in some of our own thoughts.

The trends from a boom in certified multi-family construction to the advent of consumer friendly home energy technology.

1. "Urban density. Millennials and boomers alike are choosing to live in the city where they can be closer to cultural activity, mass transit, more sustainable lifestyles, and other like-minded people, and builders must create more living space. Builders are getting creative in gaining more living space through the construction of accessory dwelling units."
2. "Green multifamily homes. Earth Advantage Institute has seen a large spike in Northwest multifamily building certifications this past year, hinting that we might see a rise in certifications in 2012 as well." AES has seen large spike in certified green projects for multifamily developments across the Midwest/
3. "Energy upgrades start to drive home remodels. Builders and remodelers who are plugged into changing consumer preferences (smaller homes, reduced energy bills) have been able to capitalize on energy upgrade work."
4. "Deployment and testing of new materials. Although architects and builders are eager to try to new energy-saving materials and systems, these products require significant testing to ensure that the materials and benefits will last the life of the building and to avoid litigation."
5. "Consumer friendly home energy tracking devices. The introduction of the Apple-like Nest Learning Thermostat, and Belkin's Conserve Insight energy use monitor that tracks energy use by appliance, are two of many sensor-based energy and water monitoring products for the home that are easy to use and help save money. Large electronics players like Fujitsu and Intel are also developing products, among others."
6. "Energy education for commercial tenants. The growing adoption of commercial building energy disclosure (New York; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; Seattle; Austin) has building owners/operators and utilities seeking effective ways to educate tenants on saving energy."
7. "Transparency in home marketing. Builders, remodelers, and real estate professionals who can clearly educate their clients about the benefits and features of energy efficient, green homes will be those who earn the buyers' confidence."
8. "More accurate appraisals. The ability for sellers and buyers to ask their banks for a green-certified appraiser means that the lending community will be open to the idea of the additional value and ROI offered by new certified homes and remodels." – This is something or director is facing now. Attempting to get a proper appraisal for a moderate green home retrofit – you can learn more at <http://grandrapidsgreenhomeretrofit.blogspot.com/>

9. "Broader adoption of residential energy ratings (and certifications!) for homes. Energy labeling systems are appearing in many states, offering estimates of a home's energy consumption for homebuyers and homeowners."
10. Smart grid-compatible high-performance homes. Increasing numbers of home appliances are gaining the ability to monitor and report their own usage and to increase or decrease their electricity usage by remote command.

Best,

Margo

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