

# Coconino County and the U.S. Green Building Council - Leaders in the Green Building Revolution!

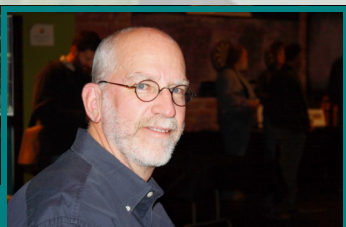
November 2009



## The Mixer

On November 14<sup>th</sup> the Coconino County Sustainable Building Program, in conjunction with the Northern Branch of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), hosted a very successful and informative Green Building Mixer at The Green Room. The Mixer was the Flagstaff finale to the 2009 annual USGBC Greenbuild™ International Conference and Expo, Unwind in the Pines and Green Streets events and it provided the opportunity for the green community to network, learn about the sustainable building currently going up in Coconino County and recognize some of 2009's most outstanding contributors. Among the attendees were a variety of green building advocates, each with their own ways of participating in the movement. Through the course of the evening they highlighted the many benefits of sustainable development and showed their pride in helping to bring our community to the forefront of the essential green building revolution.

## Attendees



Some of the participants were homeowners, there to share and gather ideas and who had the wisdom and foresight to build green. Marvin Got-



### 2009 Award Winners

- Beyond Adobe & Doris Beran's adobe home
- Steve Posse & Jack Clark's affordable housing home
- Jim Graves & Aude Stang's Pine Canyon home
- Jana, David & Jennifer Carpenter for their Hill Top Garden's Condos
- Kinney Construction Services, Roberts/Jones & Associates & Robert Breunig's Museum of Northern AZ Collection Center
- Youthbuild - Collaborative program through Coconino County Career Services, Coconino Community College and Bothhands





felty and his wife, Marie Jones, are in the process of building their house constructed out of recycled shipping containers as well as other recycled materials and are including eco friendly features such as a water harvesting system and both passive and active solar energy collection. As proud as he is of his home's green features, one of the best aspects of the home is just how comfortable it is. The passive solar in particular makes for a home with a lot of mood lifting natural light and a stable, comfortable temperature. This project is scheduled to receive Coconino County's Sustainable Building Award at next year's award ceremony.



Thad Johnson, an architectural designer and owner of Solar Terra LLC and Mike Tulloss, a general contractor with Stilley-Tulloss Design Build Group, are currently constructing a high efficiency off-grid home that is also scheduled to receive the County's Sustainable Building Award in 2010. At the event, they highlighted one of their homes in the program and talked about the many features and benefits of their latest project. The home is healthy for one thing, with no VOC emissions. It has lower sound levels due to adequate insulation, maintains a low cost and comfortable temperature utilizing thermal mass passive solar, and it too boasts ample levels of natural light. Along with meeting its own energy needs for heat and electricity, it also harvests its own rain water, utilizes grey water and employs solar water heating. It is energy efficient, creating a low LPG bill and is durable, requiring very low maintenance. Due to the sustainable design, the owners don't have to worry about mold or repainting either. In the long run, this sustainably built and comfortable home will save the owners money.

Not all sustainable building projects being displayed that evening were residential. Beaver Street Brewery co-owner Winnie Hanseth and her daughter, Kelly



Hanseth, were there showcasing their new project, the Lumberyard Taproom and Grill. This project is a wonderful example of blending historical preservation and city infill design while incorporating several other sustainable features such as utilizing reclaimed water for landscaping.

Local business owners such as Silas Page, who also attended the annual Green-build™ conference and owns the AP Saw-mill, came to the mixer to support friends receiving awards that evening and to network. In his business he works with local contractors, helping them build sustainably by using locally sourced and processed wood products. This local production not only helps reduce carbon emissions and supports the local economy, but also promotes forest restoration through healthy logging in Northern Arizona. With the economy down, says Page, green building has been the only profitable niche left in construction.



Also highlighted at the event were USGBC Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified projects throughout Flagstaff and Coconino County. Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Applied Research and Development building received LEED Platinum certification due to its efficient design, renewable technology and innovative sustainable concepts. Other NAU LEED Gold certified buildings include the Engineering and Technology Building and the W.A. Frank College of Business. NAU's South Campus Recreation Field features synthetic grass, recycled drainage material and many other sustainable innovative practices that led this project to LEED Silver certification. Other projects on track for LEED Gold are the Extended Campus Facility with its energy and water efficient design, the Health and Learning Center (also employing efficient design and



reduced building impact), the Residence Life Warehouse and the Drury Hotel and High Country Conference Center.

## The Sponsors

Sponsors of the event provided funding and informational booths. Bridget Sharpe, an organizer with Repower America said that her goal that evening was to help get the message out to citizens for the need to move towards passing clean energy legislation. When asked what is the best way for ordinary people to help this happen, she replied that one of the most powerful things we can do is to write handwritten letters to our legislators. She said that handwritten letters are more effective because the legislators themselves are more likely to receive and read them and make a real impression, where as form letters, emails, petitions and phone calls are often only addressed by aids.



Other sponsors for the event included local businesses that provide services to promote sustainable development such as: Architectural Design Studio, Beyond Adobe LLC, E3 Energy, Echo Essence, Energy Miser Building Products, Energy Seal Corp., Hope Construction, Kinney Construction Services, Inc., Stilley-Tulloss Design Build Group, Northern Arizona Branch of the USGBC, Prometheus Renewables, Solar Design and Construction, SolarTerra Design LLC and Universal Mechanical CO LLC.

Volunteers in the mix included representatives from the Construction Management Department at NAU. Stacey Kenyon, Lindsey Blum and Kelly Snyder, all members of the student chapter of the National Association of Women in Con-







struction, volunteered with the hopes of raising public awareness of women in the field. They said that they are three of only five women currently majoring in Construction Management at NAU and that this needs to change. Construction Management is a rewarding and high paying career that more girls should be considering for their futures. Green construction, in particular, is a rising industry that is quickly becoming main-

stream and offers plenty of opportunity for women to succeed while doing something positive for their communities. Green construction management is the future of the industry.

## The Speakers

The evening wasn't just about socializing and networking though. Speakers that evening each highlighted some of the important work being done locally to support the sustainable development movement and awards were given to some of this year's top contributors.

Coconino County Supervisor, Carl Taylor spoke about the reasons for sustainable development, pointing out that how we treat our environment speaks volumes about our attitudes towards other humans and asked us to consider the consequences of not building green. He also pointed out how clean energy and sustainable development are intertwined because 40% of all energy used in the US is associated with construction. Due to this, said Mr. Taylor, green features need to be included in our building codes. He stressed that many green elements are design elements and don't require technical but rather practical solutions. One of the simplest ways the average property owner can help make their home a little greener is just by properly winterizing. Grants are often times available to help with the costs in such cases and the Coconino County Sustainable Building Program is also proud to offer free consultation in regards to construction possibilities and codes. He stated that local programs like the Coconino County Sustainable Building Program and national organizations like the USGBC are essential to our ability to move in a more sustainable direc-







tion.

Other presenters included: Amanda Acheson with Coconino County's Sustainable Building Program; Kimberly Trotta with Kinney Construction Services, Inc; Justin Erickson, co-owner and president of E3 Energy; Ed Dunn, owner and president of Solar Design and Construction; Patrick Hurley, Chair of the Northern AZ Branch of the greater USGBC and Rich Bowen, Associate Vice President for Economic Development from NAU's Office of the President. Each speaker highlighted some of the important work being done locally and nationally to support the sustainable development movement as well as their personal contribution. Awards were given to some of this year's top contributors.



## The Awards

Star of the evening and the pride of Flagstaff is the new Museum of Northern Arizona Easton Collection Center. Kinney Construction Services, Roberts, Jones and Associates and The Museum of Northern Arizona won an award at the mixer for this phenomenal project, but this wasn't their first time being recognized. This building is green from top to bottom. Using locally obtained materials and with minimal site disturbance it was built with appropriate solar orientation, high thermal mass walls, photovoltaic renewable energy, extensive insulation, energy efficient windows, heating and cooling systems, sustainable storm water technologies and water conserving plumbing systems. All interior finishes used are low VOC products and formaldehyde free. The Collection Center even features an electric vehicle charging station and to top it all off, a living roof! They built it this way because they were just trying to build the best building that they could, but it also ended up winning them the national 2009 McGraw-Hill Best of the Best Award for Green Building. Flagstaff is proud to be home to the greenest building of 2009! One of the responsible parties, Kinney Construction Services, is "the leading commercial sustainability contractor in





Northern Arizona” as per Southwest Contractor magazine, which is huge for Flagstaff because it means we have the ability to keep the large sustainable commercial projects in house.

Winning an award for their outstanding work in sustainable development as well as their general contribution to the community was local organization Coconino Youthbuild. Working with Coconino Community College

and BOTHHANDS Inc. they combine education, training in Green Construction, job readiness skills and leadership development for at risk youth, improving their lives and benefiting the entire community.

Also among the winners were:



- Beyond Adobe and Doris Beran’s adobe home, featuring passive solar, rain-water harvesting, low water fixtures and appliances, on demand hot water, American clay plasters, local custom cabinetry and recycled furnishings
- Steve Posse and Jack Clark’s affordable housing home, featuring passive solar, low flow water fixtures, energy star heating and appliances, sealed ductwork and whole house ventilation equipment
- Jim Graves and Aude Stang’s Pine Canyon hybrid, high efficiency and high performance home
- Jana, David and Jennifer Carpenter’s Hilltop Garden’s Condos, Flagstaff’s first eco friendly condos with their own solar panels and rain water harvesting for toilets and landscapes.



Overall the evening was a huge success, showing just how far Northern Arizona has come moving in a sustainable direction. The participants, with their myriad of contributions, are an asset our community.



For more information about the event, sustainable building and local projects please contact Amanda Acheson, Coconino County Sustainable Building Program Manager at (928) 679-8853 or [aacheson@coconino.az.gov](mailto:aacheson@coconino.az.gov) or visit the website at [www.coconino.az.gov/sustainablebuilding](http://www.coconino.az.gov/sustainablebuilding)

Event photography, interviews and newsletter by Katherine Heicksen at [kahphotography.com](http://kahphotography.com) with material included from Amanda Acheson, Kimberly Trotta and Gabriella Smith.