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## ***Rosendin Electric Becomes a USGBC Educational Provider***

*Written by Erica Paul*

Congratulations! Rosendin Electric's "LEED NC Exam Prep" 3-hour class has been successfully reviewed and approved through the U.S. Green Building Council Educational Provider Program. The course will now be added to our growing catalog of other high quality Educational Provider courses. Rosendin's course is currently listed on the website ([www.usgbc.org/epp](http://www.usgbc.org/epp)) and will be moved to the new course catalog when it launches on [www.greenbuild365.org](http://www.greenbuild365.org).

*Rosendin Electric is in the process of certifying a 6-week LEED NC Class, and is expected to have it approved by June 2008.*



## ***Get Your Ticket They Are Selling Fast***



*Written by Tom Sorley, CEO*

"Sustainable design and construction" is growing at an amazing velocity in the construction industry. Good ideas that benefit everyone always catch on quickly but the momentum associated with "Green" is happening at an unprecedented pace.

I started my first two months of 2008, attending conferences in which each held a common theme of emphasis, "Sustainable design and construction". Those in attendance at these events came from all walks of life and represented wide range industries including construction, retail, distribution, entertainment, and local and federal government officials. Each person was eagerly looking for knowledge and understanding of "Sustainable design and construction" that they could take back and apply in their own communities.

At one conference the Building Trades spoke about modifying their training programs in order to bring more awareness within the trades about the benefits of a sustainable building model. At another conference, building owners spoke about how all future construction would require more than just conserving through reduction of usage and recycling but also in design and use of products that create a healthier environment. At the last, contractors from all over the country met to discuss the latest in "green" products and technologies that can be used to build sustainable environments across a wide range of industries.

Owners, contractors and the crafts that build the environments that house industry all focused on creating something better for our future!

"Green concepts" are worldwide concepts, recent articles in the Engineering News Record and California Magazine include highlights of "Sustainable" project concepts in Australia, developments in Abu Dhabi (\$2.2B) and Dong tan Shanghai, which are being designed to virtually eliminate carbon emissions and solid waste pollution! *Con't page 2*



## Get Your Ticket, con't...

I am certain that over the next few years we will find more and more initiatives related to sustainable design and construction, and more products developed that harmonize with the environment. It is the right thing to do. Rosendin Electric's objective should be to stay ahead of these developments, help set standards, and to be the leaders in the quest for a healthier environment.

At Rosendin the window of opportunity is open...get involved with the Green Team, get LEED Accredited, and build your future as a leader in creating a healthier, more efficient workplace through sustainable design and construction.

Tom

*" Rosendin Electric's objectives should be to stay ahead of these developments, help set standards, and be the leaders in the quest for a healthier environment."*

## GET Smart

*Written by Larry Sever*

As we continue our mission to become more in tune with our responsibility of living and building Green we need to GET Smart. With each quarterly issue of the Rosendin Green Wire we will introduce a new Green product or tool that will help save energy.

The concept of a paperless job site for reports is not the next wave of the future, it is something that is a current practice on many jobsites already.

In Syracuse, NY developer Robert J. Congel, founder of DestinyUSA, is building a

LEED Platinum \$500 Million Mall and Hotel project in which he has committed to a near-paperless job site by reviewing documents in job site trailers on 47" Monitors

(HD TV's Computer Compatible) and pen sensitive tablet PC's for field inspections.

There may be a time in the future when we will be able to

embrace mobile computing technology to save on waste and increase our productivity. Imagine the benefits to Management, Engineering, Estimating and Safety that a paperless world would make. The ultimate achievement would be to have all field review project documents in real time. To see how the \$4.2 Billion a year Contractor Skanska made six days of productivity out of a five-day work week click on: [www.motioncomputing.com/](http://www.motioncomputing.com/)

## What Should You Recycle



More than 80% of Americans reuse plastic products.



*We've all heard REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE..... but there's more to it than that !*

*Rosendin Electric began 2008 with recycling at the forefront of their goals and held their 1st Bi-Annual "Recycle It All" event. All employees were invited to bring in clothing, electronics, appliances, batteries, and other household items to recycle/donate to local organizations in the San Jose area. Our next "Recycle It All" event will be held July 14-18, 2008.*

# Recycling Facts....

Written by Diane O'Carroll

## Aluminum

- Aluminum can be recycled using less than 5 % of the energy used to make the original product.
- Recycling one aluminum beverage can saves enough energy to run a 100 watt bulb for 20 hours, a computer for 3 hours, or a TV for 2 hours.

## Plastic

- Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture it from raw materials.
- Plastics require 100 to 400 years to break down at the landfill.
- Five 2-liter recycled PET bottles produce enough fiberfill to make a ski jacket.

## Glass

- Producing glass from virgin materials requires 30 % more energy than producing it from crushed, used glass.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will operate a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.
- It takes approximately 1 million years for a glass bottle to break down at the landfill.

## Steel

- Tin cans contain 99 % steel.
- Recycling steel and tin cans saves between 60 % and 74 % of the energy used to produce them from raw materials.
- According to the Steel Recycling Institute, steel recycling in the United States saves the energy equivalent to electrical power for about one-fifth of American households for one year.
- One ton of recycled steel saves the energy equivalent of 3.6 barrels of oil and 1.49 tons of iron ore over the production of new steel.

## Paper

- Producing recycled paper requires about 60 % of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp.
- Manufacturing one ton of office and computer paper with recycled paper stock can save between 3,000 and 4,000 kilowatt hours over the same ton of paper made with virgin wood products.
- Preventing 1 ton of paper waste saves between 15 and 17 mature trees.

*All information based on facts obtained from [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) website.*



# Ways to Green Your Home

Written by Silvia Rave

Be good to the environment, and save some money in the process. Green means efficient. Follow these tips:

## 1. Use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Replace all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). By replacing even your five most frequently used light bulbs, you'll save \$100 per year. If every family in the U.S.A. did this, greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by one trillion pounds--there are 12 zeros in a trillion!

## 2. Program Your Thermostats

Save 10% on your heating and cooling costs just by programming your thermostat. Program your thermostat to 78 degrees F or higher in the summer and 62 degrees F or lower in the winter. If you tell it to return to your preferred temperature before you return home, you won't ever know the temperature changed, until you look at the reduction in your energy bills.

## 3. Plug Air Leaks

Air leaks are the greatest energy waster in the home, but they can be simple to plug. Install weather-stripping and caulking to stop those expensive drafts and improve comfort. It's cheap and easy, and almost anyone can do it. Look for leaks around windows, doors, electrical outlets, plumbing penetrations, and in the attic floor.

## 4. Homemade cleaners can be less toxic.

With some simple, reliable recipes and clean, empty containers, you can make your own less-toxic cleaners right at home using familiar household ingredients. The following is a list of basic ingredients, along with their common cleaning uses:

**Baking soda (bicarbonate of soda).** This mild alkali powder can be used for a variety of household cleaning purposes, such as removing stains from tile, glass, oven doors, and china; cleaning the inside of refrigerators; helping to absorb odors; and removing baked-on food from pans. It also acts as a stain remover for fruit juices and other mild acids.

**Borax.** A powder or crystalline salt sold in most grocery stores, borax is a water softener and sanitizer. It makes an excellent freshener when added to laundry and is an all-around deodorizer.

**Castile Soap.** A mild soap available in liquid or bar form that can be used for general-purpose cleaning. It was once made from olive oil, but now may include other vegetable oils as well.

**Cream of tartar (potassium bitartrate).** This common baking ingredient is a mild acid that can be used as a sink and bathtub stain remover. It can also be used to remove spots from aluminum cookware.

# How High is Your GREEN IQ?

Written by Diane O'Carroll

1. A typical light bulb wastes what percent of electricity?

- A. 5 percent
- b. 30 percent
- c. 65 percent
- d. 90 percent

2. What percent of U.S. morning traffic consists of students being driven to school?

- a. 5
- b. 10
- c. 20
- d. 35

3. Used oil from one oil change can contaminate how much fresh water?

- a. none
- b. 100 gallons
- c. 10,000 gallons
- d. 1 million gallons

4. What's one cause of hypoxia in the environment?

- a. Spicy food
- b. Greenhouses
- c. Nutrient runoff
- d. Drought

5. What's the number one trash item found on beaches?

- a. cigarette filters
- b. plastic bottles
- c. seaweed
- d. food bags

6. Shade trees around your house can reduce your air conditioner bill by up to how much?

- a. 10 percent
- b. 25 percent
- c. 50 percent
- d. 75 percent

7. What type of trash takes up the most space in US landfills?

- a. plastic
- b. metal
- c. paper
- d. yard waste

8. Choosing the most fuel-efficient vehicle saves you how much over the vehicle life?

- a. \$50
- b. \$200
- c. \$900
- d. \$1500