



The SLO

Green Scene

SLO Green Build's Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring, 2006

Local Events

* **March 15, 6:00-8:00**

**SLO Green Build & AIA:
Learn~Build~Save Kickoff**
Ludwick Community Cntr.
854 Santa Rosa St SLO.
Info@slogreenbuild.org

* **March 21, 7:00**

**Earth Day Alliance:
Earth Month Kickoff**
SLO Library 805-440-2547

* **March 26, 9:00-6:00**

EcoSLO: EcoSummit \$25
Camp Ocean Pines
1473 Randall Dr. Cambria
RSVP (805) 544-1777

* **April 1&8, 8:30 - 5:00**

**Certified Green Building
Professional Training \$350**
www.builditgreen.org

* **April 22, 10:00-5:00**

Earth Day Celebration
Mission Plaza, SLO
(805)-544-8529

* **April 24th, 6:30-8:30**

**SLOGB & Hopedance
Rainwater Harvesting Pres-
entation and Book signing.**
SLO Library
gouldmund@hotmail.com

* **May 17, 6:00-8:00**

**SLO Green Build
Learn Build Save Series**
2 of 6 – Site and landscape
Botanical Gardens– El
Chorro Regional Park
Info@slogreenbuild.org

* **May 20 & 21, 10-4**

1st Annual SLOHome Show
Madonna Inn Expo Center
805-459-1923

Send your events to

Events@SLOGreenBuild.org

Helping Shape Public Policy

Advocates are making headway in local government

The cities of San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande will soon be updating their General Plans with explicit provisions for green building, and SLO Green Build has been actively engaged in the process.

Both municipalities are expanding their respective Conservation Elements with green-building goals and implementation measures geared initially to encouraging rather than mandating change in construction practices. The cities themselves are expected to set stellar examples by practicing what they preach on the future construction of public buildings.

As a backdrop to the green- ing of policy measures relating to construction methods and materials, SLO Green Build submitted a white paper to the City of San Luis

Obispo's planning commis- sion in March 2005. Entitled *Sustainable Communities*, the 17-page paper examines the reasons and recommenda- tions for sustainable building in our county. The paper is accessible on SLO Green Build's website.

The *Sustainable Communi- ties* paper sparked a healthy exchange between SLO Green Build, the SLO Cham- ber of Commerce and the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This triad formally joined forces in November to rec- ommend policy goals and specific wording for the Con- servation and Open Space Element (COSE) being drafted by SLO City's plan- ning staff – wording which the Planning Commission adopted in February. Next step: City Council review and approval.

Arroyo Grande got off to a flying start last June by being the first city to sign a Memo- randum of Understanding (MOU) with SLO Green Build, pledging to back sus- tainable-building practices. Since then, the City has un- dertaken to widen the focus of its Conservation Element to encompass energy conser- vation, the use of renewables and green building. In taking this step, it faced a common concern among community planners about increasing an already heavy staff workload. In this case, with the help of Cal Poly's Department of City and Regional Planning, SLO Green Build was able to arrange for a student intern to assist the City's planning staff. The planning staff's target for bringing its draft update to the City's planning commission and city council: late 2006 or early 2007.

By Nick Alter

PG&E Rebates Available Now

As of January 1 2006, most PG&E rebates are avail- able to both residential and business customers.

Be sure to download the 2006 Energy Efficiency Rebate Application Package and read all the informa- tion carefully before submitting your application.

Remember, rebates are paid on a first come first serve basis and the budget is limited!

For more information Visit
www.pge.com/res/rebates/

Rebates Currently Available:

- Clothes Washer: \$35 - \$75
- Dishwasher: \$30 - \$50
- Insulation \$0.15/sq. ft.
- Frig/Freezer Recycling: \$35
- Water Heater : \$30
- Air Conditioner: \$50
- Evaporative Cooling: \$300-\$600
- Furnace: \$200 to \$400
- Air Handler System: \$50
- Whole House Fan: \$100

Make Your Voice Heard

Learn how to get involved in your local government

ARROYO GRANDE		
Planning Commission		City Council
1st & 3rd Tuesday 6:00	Time	2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00
215 East Branch	Location	215 East Branch
(805) 473-5420	Contact	473-5404
ATASCADERO		
Planning Commission		City Council
1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00	Time	2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00
6907 El Camino Real, 466-5876	Location	6907 El Camino Real, 461-5000
	Contact	
GROVER BEACH		
Planning Commission		City Council
2nd Tuesday 6:30	Time	1st & 3rd Monday 6:30
154 S. Eighth St. 473-4520	Location	154 S. Eighth Street 473-4567
	Contact	
MORRO BAY		
Planning Commission		City Council
1st & 3rd Thursday 6:00	Time	2nd & 4th Thursday 6:00
209 Surf St 772-6261	Location	209 Surf St. 772-6205
	Contact	
PASO ROBLES		
Planning Commission		City Council
2nd and 4th Tuesday 7:30	Time	1st & 3rd Tuesday
1000 Spring Street (805) 237-3970	Location	1000 Spring Street (805) 237-3888
	Contact	
PISMO BEACH		
Planning Commission		City Council
2nd & 4th Tuesday 760 Matte Rd 773-4658.	Time	1st & 3rd Tuesday 4:30
	Location	760 Matte Rd 773-7003.
	Contact	
SAN LUIS OBISPO		
Planning Commission		City Council
2nd & 4th Wed 990 Palm 781-7170	Time	1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:00
	Location	990 Palm 781-7119
	Contact	
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO		
Planning Commission		Board Of Supervisors
1st & 3rd Tuesday 8:45 AM	Time	Every Tuesday 9:00AM
1055 Monterey St SLO 781-5600	Location	1055 Monterey St. SLO 781-5450
	Contact	

Meetings are subject to change!

Want to get involved in your city government and have a real influence on the outcome of decisions made about your home? Make your voice heard and discover how you can help shape your community. The following are excerpts from the San Luis Obispo City web site (<http://www.ci.san-luis-obispo.ca.us/>).

Agendas are posted at City Hall prior to the meeting. In addition, agenda summaries are available by calling the contact number listed. The agenda is often posted on the City's website. A member of the public may request an item be placed on a future agenda during the Public Comment period of a regular meeting of the Council; or via other communication with Council Members. Placement of the item on the agenda is subject to a majority consensus of the City Council. A public comment period is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting for citizens to comment on any city issue not already listed. The public may also speak concerning any agenda item when it is under consideration and the floor is opened by the Mayor for public comments. Speakers are asked to come forward to the audience microphone and state their name and address for the record. Public testimony for or against an item is limited to three minutes. Written comments regarding scheduled agenda items are always accepted and should be directed to the Mayor and Council through the City Clerk. Regular council meetings are often televised and current council minutes are available on their website or by contacting the City Clerk.

The **City Council** acts upon *all* legislative matters concerning the City, approving and adopting all ordinances, resolutions, contracts and other matters requiring overall policy decisions and leadership. The Council appoints the City Manager, City Attorney and various other commissions, boards and citizen advisory committees, all of which ensure broad-based input into the affairs of the City.

The **Planning Commission** is a planning agency authorized by law to grant or deny land use approvals. The Planning Commission also reviews and makes recommendations on the community's General Plan. Major areas of involvement are real estate development projects and business uses.

The **Board of Supervisors** serves as the Legislative body of *San Luis Obispo County* for the planning and provision of services related to public needs and the requirements of state and federal laws. California law provides for five Supervisors to be elected by district. Each Supervisor is elected for a four-year term. Two of the Supervisors' terms are staggered so that all Supervisors are not standing for election at the same time. As the elected representative of the people of San Luis Obispo County, the Board of Supervisors establishes overall county priorities and sets policy.

For more information visit your cities home page or call the contact numbers listed to the left. Watch for alerts from SLO Green Build for upcoming agenda items that may be of interest to you and your cause.

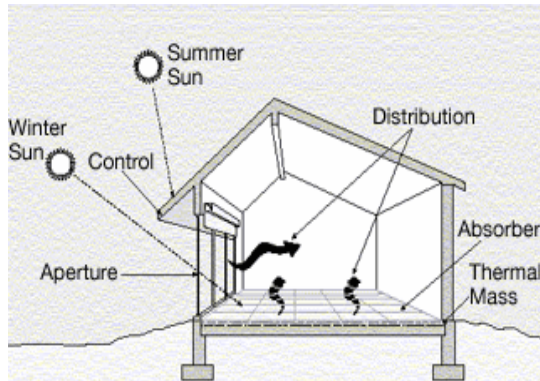
Compiled By: Jessica Steely

Let's Start with the Easy Things

A few small design considerations can save you more than you think.

The simplest aspects of green building and the easiest to accomplish without much effort or cost are often the most neglected. How can this be? This sounds impossible, but it is true. I think the reason for this is the abstractions our Industrial society emphasizes. The unspoken assumption we all carry is that to be valuable something must be complicated, difficult to understand and require many pages of writing to describe. This assumption lures us into neglect of some very common sense basics in regard to green building.

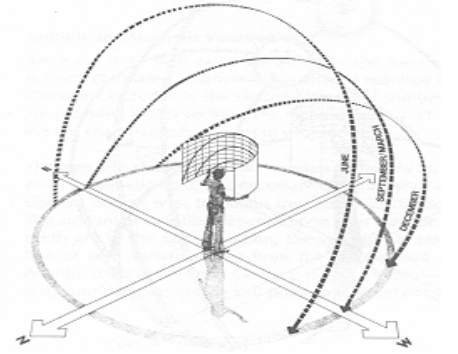
An example of one of these is **solar orientation**. Solar orientation is a very simple, immutable physical rela-



South facing windows can be designed to capture winter sun and deflect summer sun, decreasing the need for artifi-

relationship. It can be dealt with using one very simple rule; DESIGN YOUR BUILDING, ROOM, ETC. TO FACE THE EQUATOR. That means if you are in the Northern hemisphere orient your spaces south. If you are in the Southern hemisphere face north. No if, and, or but about it. Views, streets, lot orientation, etc. are all secondary to this primary consideration. Weird angled lots and streets or east/ west views may require some wrestling around to get everything to work together, but from my experience all can almost always be made to work and still have proper orientation. You have some leeway, as much as 20 degrees off of south can work, but angles beyond this become increasingly dysfunctional in regard to passive heating, cooling and natural lighting of the building.

Why south? South light is the easiest to access when you want it and easiest to block when you do not want it. A simple overhang does the trick for summer and winter. This is because in winter, sun angles are low (30 degrees at noon here in San Luis Obispo County) and can penetrate the building thru standard windows. In the summer when the sun is



The sun's position in the sky through the seasons

high (78 degrees at noon here in SLO County) the walls and windows are automatically shaded.

This is the basics about orientation. There are nuances that can be discussed about use of north, east and west light, how to tilt for heating or cooling for spring conditions or fall conditions for views or for natural lighting. These can be covered later along with other basics such as insulating, natural lighting, natural ventilation and the use of thermal mass, but for now let me say, solar orientation is simple, easy and critically important!

BY: Ken Haggard

To learn more about passive solar design and landscape assessment attend SLOGB's **Learn Build Save educational series presentation 2 of 6 on May 17th** at the Ludwig Community Center in SLO. Please call for more info.

SLOGB Eco Tips Reduce Your Energy Use This Winter:

- Caulking small openings in your exterior envelope.
- Put new weather stripping around old doors and windows.
- Use a ceiling fan on reverse spin to help push hot air down into the space occupied by people.
- Check your heating ducts for leaks.
- Replace or clean furnace filters once a month.
- Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120°. Savings can be 7-11% of water heating costs.
- Consider Replacing old appliances with new energy Star appliances (See available rebates, Page 1).
- Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free (get them closed again at sundown so they help insulate).
- Close the chimney flue when not using the fireplace.
- Insulate the hot water lines leaving the water heater. Consider a water heater insulating jacket to help keep more of the heat in.
- Move your furniture so you are sitting near interior walls. Exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty - don't sit in the draft.

For more information visit California Energy Commission at <http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/tips.html>



SLO Green Build

Learn ~ Build ~ Save

For more information contact
 SLO Green Build at
 7900 El Camino Real
 Atascadero, CA 93422
 Tel: (805) 461-5986
 Fax: (805) 466-6739



SLO Green Build, your local non profit organization dedicated to minimize construction-related waste, create healthier, more durable buildings, reduce operating costs, and support local manufacturers and suppliers. We work to educate the public and encourage local government to provide incentives for sustainable construction practice.

Watch for Learn Build Save; The green building educational series designed to inform all genres of people how to create efficient, healthy homes and utilize the SLO Green Build checklist system. Presentation 2 of 6 is coming up May 17 and will explore the use of landscape and solar orientation to make your home more efficient and comfortable.

Want to get involved? Volunteer with SLO Green Build today! Tasks available for all interests, aptitudes and level of involvement. Come enjoy the company of other inspired locals who believe in a beautiful future on the central coast.

Be among the first in the community to obtain the SLO Green Build Certification. Now accepting applications for SLO Green Build Pilot program projects. Call or write for information. Applications available on line.

Send Questions or comments about this publication to Jessica Steely at JessicaS@Semmesco.com

SLOGB Partners and Business Members

- * ECO SLO
- * American Institute of Architecture Central Coast Chapter
- * Habitat for Humanity of San Luis Obispo
- * League of Women Voters
- * Sustainable Builders Council
- * City of Arroyo Grande
- * City of Morro Bay
- * City of Pismo Beach
- * Semmes and Company Builders
- * Green Goods
- * Richard G. Beller AIA
- * Cullen Construction
- * Solarponics
- * Green Building Pages
- * Habitat Studios
- * Pacific Energy Company
- * Build it Green Consulting
- * Pacific Property
- * Paragon Design
- * Brummel, Myrick & Associates
- * San Luis Sustainability Group
- * New Belgium Brewery

Become a SLO Green Build Member

- **Cypress \$30**
(\$10 Senior/Student)
Includes your copy of the Green Building Guidelines
- **Manzanita \$100**
plus Website listing
- **Bay Laurel \$200**
plus brochures at events
- **Madrone** \$500**
plus listing on our web site
- **Coastal Live Oak \$1000**
Plus mention on radio & TV
- **Sycamore \$3000**
plus listing/logo on kiosks located throughout SLO County
- **Redwood \$5000**
Plus display table at our events

Annual Membership Application Form

YES! I support SLO Green Build. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.
*For Manzanita level and above, please indicate if this is a ___Donation (501c3) or a ___Business Deduction

Name _____ Profession _____

Company name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please make your check payable to: **ECOSLO/SLOGB**
 Mail to: **SLO Green Build 7900 El Camino Real Atascadero, CA 93422**
 Business members will be asked to sign a SLO Green Build "Commitment to Green Business Practices" Agreement prior to being on the website resource listing.

Thank you for supporting green building in San Luis Obispo County

**Volunteer hours may be applied toward membership by contacting SLO Green Build.