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Spotlight on Capital Constraints in Retrofit Financing: Innovative Models Overcome First-Cost Barriers

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The upfront cost of energy efficiency retrofits has historically killed more promising projects than any other obstacle. When companies are forced to trade-off between investments in “core” operations and energy efficiency improvements, energy efficiency typically loses. This occurs even with the sizable energy savings, short paybacks and dramatic improvements in work environments delivered by such projects. The good news is that innovative financing solutions are now available to allow customers to better leverage the realized energy savings from efficiency projects to pay for the projects, thus removing capital availability concerns from the customer decision-making process. Read [full article](#).

Join Erik and other experts at the [Smart Value Chain Summit](#) in California, June 20-22.

High-Performance Buildings Week: the CBC and NIBS Co-Host Hill Briefing on Report Findings

The CBC and the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Consultative Council co-hosted a breakfast briefing on the Hill, on Thursday, May 26, 2011 as part of the High-Performance Buildings Week. Diana Lin (NASEO) provided an overview of the work of the Commercial Buildings Consortium, highlighting the two reports which were released earlier this year. Ryan Colker (NIBS) introduced the NIBS Consultative Council report findings looking at all aspects of high-performance buildings. Download the CBC [Next Generation Technologies Barriers and Industry Recommendations for Commercial Buildings](#) report and the [Analysis of Cost & Non-Cost Barriers and Policy Solutions for Commercial Buildings](#) report. Download the [NIBS report](#).

Emerging Technologies Adoption Through Student Involvement: the Green Campus Program

[Green Campus](#) is an Alliance to Save Energy led program which uses student involvement to introduce and accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies. The program goals include building pathways to green careers, realizing measurable energy savings on campuses, introducing energy efficiency in the curriculum, and promoting efficiency outreach through educational campaigns.

Currently employing over 75 college-level interns yearly, Green Campus encompasses two main areas examined in the CBC reports: workforce development and the implementation of existing and emerging technologies. The program engages students early on in the learning curve with the latest and most exciting technologies thus placing the students at the forefront of energy efficiency while they're learning.

CAL STATE FULLERTON:

Green Campus integrated energy efficiency into academics by developing a course guide and for-credit internship program as well as conducting an LED lighting retrofit. Developed in partnership with a committee of faculty advisors, the course guide for the first time created a rating system for "green" courses on campus. A cost-benefit analysis of the lamps used in the LED retrofit demonstrated that the retrofit would pay for itself in energy savings in less than one year. The LED lights cost approximately \$1,900, but led to 19,000 kWh of energy savings, or over \$27,000 in total savings over the project's lifetime, making this a worthwhile upfront investment on any campus.

UC SANTA CRUZ DINING AND FOOD SERVICE EFFICIENCY TURBO POT PILOT:

Green Campus interns connected with dining management to test the highly efficient Eneron Turbo Pots within a kitchen in Crown-Merrill College. The kitchen staff was asked to complete a simple log with respect to their use of the Turbo Pots over three weeks, and Green Campus interns will later collect and analyze the log data and present the results back to dining management. While results from the pilot are still pending, preliminary testing from the Food Service Technology Center (FSTC) shows that with the Turbo Pot cooking energy efficiency was increased by 50.7-63.0% over the standard pot. View complete [FSTC report](#).

Have a project or case study that you would like to share? [Submit](#) your idea.

The Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster (GPIC) Calls for Expert Reviewers: Respond by June 12

The [Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster \(GPIC\)](#) for Energy-Efficient Buildings was selected as the DOE Energy-Efficient Building Systems Design HUB – it is funded by DOE and led by Penn State. The goals of the GPIC are to improve energy efficiency and operability and reduce carbon emissions of new and existing buildings.

Ben Franklin Technology Partners/SEP is looking for Energy Efficient Building (EEB) related technical and business experts to serve as independent reviewers for proposals submitted to the Opportunity Research Fund (ORF) of the GPIC.

With the ORF's first funding round underway, Ben Franklin is managing the proposal evaluation process and will provide awardee recommendations to the GPIC Executive Board and the DOE for final determination.

They are seeking both technical and business EEB based experts. See the [Call for Reviewers](#) for more information. Please forward your nominees to James Gambino (james@sep.benfranklin.org), no later than June 12, 2011.

EPA Releases Workshop Report on Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) convened its second workshop on the [Power of Information to Motivate Change](#) on November 9, 2010. The workshop discussed how to best support the growth in local and state government energy benchmarking and disclosure policies. These are a few highlighted conclusions from the [report](#) (on commercial buildings):

- Energy performance benchmarks can be powerful motivators for change, and lead to substantial energy efficiency improvements.
- Local and state governments are calling on owners/operators to benchmark the energy performance of existing buildings and disclose the results.
- The ENERGY STAR energy performance scale informs about the energy efficiency of commercial buildings consistently.
- Utilities can have an impact by providing the energy data needed for benchmarking.
- Owners/operators will find it easier and more cost-effective to comply if benchmarking and disclosure policies are consistent from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Visit the [Power of Information page](#) for all workshop materials.

Attend the Smart Lighting Value Chain Summit on June 20-22 in Santa Clara, California

The [Smart Lighting Value Chain Summit](#) will feature an extensive list of [sponsors](#), [supporting organizations](#), and a comprehensive [agenda](#) looking at the lighting industry landscape. This event will identify the exciting opportunities but also assess how to surmount the different gaps in order to fully realize the vast potential of smart lighting to cut the energy footprint.

CBC members will receive a **25% discount** off the standard registration price for the Smart Lighting Value Chain Summit 2011 from June 20-22 at the Network Meeting Center in Santa Clara, CA. Take advantage of this special offer, available only to CBC members!

- [Register Online](#)
- Enter CBC Member Code: **113508**
- Or call Infocast at **(818) 888-4444**

Industry Events

[Federal Facility Energy Management Conference](#)

June 8-10, 2011 - Alexandria, VA

[Smart Lighting Value Chain Summit](#)

June 20-22, 2011 - Santa Clara, CA

[ASHRAE 2011 Annual Conference](#)

June 25 - 29, 2011 - Montreal, Quebec, Canada

[BOMA Annual Conference and the Every Building Show](#)

June 26-28, 2011 - Washington, DC

[A ULI National Policy & Practice Forum - The New Transparency in Real Estate: Sustainability Metrics, Asset Performance, and Public Disclosure](#)

June 27-28, 2011 - Chicago, Illinois

[NASEO 2011 Annual Meeting](#)

September 11 - 14, 2011 - San Antonio, TX

[International Conference for Enhanced Building Operations](#)

October 18-20, 2011 - New York City

[More upcoming events](#)