



## Learn the **Green Lingo**: FSC

"Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC is a certification system that provides internationally recognized standard-setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services to companies, organizations, and communities interested in responsible forestry. The FSC label provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment as well as providing ongoing business value."

<http://www.fsc.org/>

## Green Product of the Month

"Insulating Concrete Forms (ICFs) give you all the benefits that have made concrete the material of choice for home building worldwide. But ICFs do plain concrete one better - or rather, two better - by giving you two built-in layers of foam insulation."

### 5 Ways ICF's Help build Green

1. Optimized Energy Performance
2. Durability
3. Recycled Material Content
4. Local Materials
5. Improved Indoor Air Quality



For more information visit:

<http://www.forms.org/index.cfm/buildingicf>

## Green at Pare: Greenbuild 2009

A few of us from Pare were able to attend Greenbuild 2009 in Phoenix, AZ this November. Greenbuild is put on by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and it is the largest conference and expo in the world focused on green building. It was a great opportunity to be completely immersed in Green Design and 28,000 people that shared a desire to design and build green. The attendance ranged from architects, engineers, educators, students and contractors. Not only was there a wide range of attendees there were also a wide range of educational seminars and exhibit halls that displayed thousands of sustainable products. The conference featured the keynote speaker Al Gore who spoke about the importance of designing green as a group and the strength that numbers have when it comes to making a change. The most important information that we took from the conference is that as civil engineers, scientists and planners, how and what we design does and will continue to shape how we use our natural environment and resources, and it is should be all of our goal to promote sustainability here within our professions.

The Sustainability Design Committee (SDC) will be purchasing the Greenbuild 2009 conference proceedings to provide an opportunity for everyone to listen and see the many engaging speakers and interesting presentations. We will be sending around a conference seminar and speaker catalog to get an idea of the interest and to develop a group-viewing schedule. Individual viewing opportunities will also be available.

The SDC is currently reviewing opportunities for PARE to provide a seminar presentation at the next **Greenbuild conference in 2010**. If you have presentation topics or seminar ideas please contact your sustainability committee representative.

**Energy Audits:** According to the EPA ([www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/pubs/whybuild.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/pubs/whybuild.htm)), buildings account for about 68% of total electrical consumption and almost 40% of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States. However, some studies conclude that by 2020, U.S. energy consumption can be reduced by as much as 25% from current levels. It should come as no surprise then that efficient energy use is a critical component of sustainable design.

Efficient energy design has been an important consideration in new buildings, but can also be achieved through retrofits of existing buildings. This is where energy audits come in. An energy audit is generally a review of energy flows within a building, which can vary from a simple walk-through evaluation to a more detailed analysis.

Municipalities can take advantage of programs offered by utility companies in which a pre-qualified vendor will perform an audit of a building or facility and prepare a report outlining recommendations to reduce energy usage. A typical audit through National Grid is about \$5,000, which is split between National Grid and the municipality; however, the municipality's contribution is often waived if at least one of the recommendations is implemented. Grants are currently available, which in some cases will cover more than 50% of the cost of the improvements, greatly reducing the payback period to the municipality. Please contact Brandon Blanchard if you would like more information.