

## **BuildingGreen Announces 2008 Top-10 Green Building Products**

BOSTON, MA, November 20, 2008—BuildingGreen, LLC, publisher of the *GreenSpec® Directory* and *Environmental Building News™*, today announced the 2008 Top-10 Green Building Products. This seventh annual award, announced at the U.S. Green Building Council's Greenbuild Conference in Boston, recognizes the most exciting products drawn from additions to the *GreenSpec Directory* and coverage in *Environmental Building News*.

"Our selections of the Top-10 Green Building Products represent a wide range of product types in many different application areas," noted BuildingGreen president Alex Wilson. There are a particularly large number of interior products in this year's group of winners: the first FSC-certified and formaldehyde-free bamboo flooring; doors made with wheat-straw particleboard; a line of zero-VOC paint; a transparent finish produced from a byproduct of cheese making; and a line of organic fabrics.

Three of the products this year save energy, including a low-cost, solar water-heating system; a combination heating, water heating, and heat-recovery ventilation system; and a system for monitoring real-time energy (and water) use in buildings. Water saving products are represented by a line of rainwater storage tanks—the first rainwater storage equipment ever recognized in our Top-10 lists.

Fully half of the products this year are green in part because they are made from natural, rapidly renewable, or agricultural waste materials; natural materials often require significantly less energy to manufacture. A new compressed-earth masonry block is particularly noteworthy in this regard. "Most of the Top-10 products this year have multiple environmental attributes," said Wilson.

BuildingGreen's Top-10 product selections, as in previous years, are drawn from new additions to the company's *GreenSpec* product directory. More than 200 product listings have been added to the *GreenSpec* database during the past year. "New products seem to be appearing all the time, making it a challenge for our staff to keep up," said Wilson. The *GreenSpec* database the company maintains now includes more than 2,000 product listings.

A big driver in the development of green products continues to be the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® Rating System (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which awards points for the use of certain product types, such as certified wood, or for the energy or water savings that green products can achieve. "Designers of LEED buildings are looking for green products, and manufacturers are responding," said Wilson. In the online version of *GreenSpec*, users can find products organized by LEED credits.

The 2008 Top-10 Green Building Products are listed below:

- Integrity Block
- Safe 'N Sound Emerald doors from Masonite
- FSC-certified Plyboo Pure bamboo flooring from Smith & Fong
- Natura Paint from Benjamin Moore
- PolyWhey Floor Finish from Vermont Natural Coatings
- Ecotextiles Natural-Fiber Fabrics
- Matrix Total Home System from NTI
- SunCache solar water heating system from Harpiris Energy
- Agilewaves Resource Monitor
- Rainwater H2OG storage tanks

Source - <http://www.buildinggreen.com/press/topten2008/index.cfm>