

Obama's "Better Building Initiative" will Boost Economy

Finding Ways to Encourage Private Sector Energy Upgrades Will Do More to Cut Emissions and Create New Jobs than any "Cap & Trade" Scheme, according to Stephen E. Sandherr, CEO of the Associated General Contractors of America. He issued the following statement in response to the Administration's newly announced - **Better Buildings Initiative**: "The President's new effort to encourage energy efficiency upgrades for the nation's commercial building inventory will make our economy more efficient, more vibrant and more competitive. Given the fact that the energy consumed by the nation's building inventory accounts for 40 percent of domestic power consumption, encouraging efficiency upgrades will do much more to safeguard our environment and reduce power consumption than any current

"cap and trade" proposal ever would. And unlike restrictive environmental legislation or regulatory actions, the President's new proposal will actually stimulate new economic activity and create needed jobs for a construction sector that has seen unemployment rates above 20 percent for much of the past year.



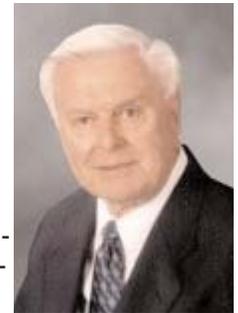
Today's announcement reflects the type of pragmatic and productive energy and efficiency upgrades the Associated General Contractors of America first outlined in its

Building a Green Future plan. Hopefully it also reflects a shift for this Administration away from pushing regulatory and legislative environmental measures that undermine economic activity towards enacting measures that safeguard our environment while advancing economic growth."

Member News

James B. Pirtle, President of **Pirtle Construction Company** is pleased to announce the **James B. and Mary Kathryn Pirtle Charitable Foundation, Inc.** The Foundation's focus is to make a positive impact in our local communities. This Foundation, formed in an effort to provide structure around the firm's charitable initiatives and programs, actively and enthusiastically supports, enriches and impacts South Florida communities and not-for-profit organizations through grants, gifts and service. "We're building a lot more than just buildings, and that is the Pirtle difference," says James B. Pirtle, founder and President of Pirtle Construction Company.

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James B. Pirtle

On January 28, **Balfour Beatty Construction** celebrated the topping out of the new office tower at 396 **Alhambra Circle** in Coral Gables.

Eighteen months ago, Balfour Beatty broke ground on the three-phase, \$130 million project at 396 Alhambra Circle. Nearly complete, the first phase includes remodeling a 7-story building, originally constructed in 1964. The second phase consists of demolishing and replacing an existing 3-story garage with an eight-story, 306,000-sq.ft. garage, which will open in May 2011. In the third and final phase, Balfour Beatty demolished an existing one-story building and is managing construction of the new, fifteen-story, 189,000-sq.ft. office tower.



396 Alhambra Circle

Power Generation Professionals

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Miller Construction Company will be held on Thursday, March 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

Genset Services, Inc. provides contractors with a wide-range of emergency power products from 7 to 9000kw to meet their needs including stationary generator systems, mobile generators, transfer switches /

switchgear, fuel systems, service/maintenance and generator rentals.

Based in

Pompano Beach, Florida, Genset is a well-known supplier to the construction industry for fast and professional response times, as well as their knowledgeable, professional staff.

As the Authorized Generac Industrial Dealer for South Florida, Genset offers a full-line of Industrial, Commercial and Residential equipment. Single engine and paralleled systems are available in LP, NG and

Diesel and the team at Genset can also provide the only factory EPA certified Bi-Fuel (Diesel and NG Fueled) system currently available in the marketplace.

In addition to top-of-the line, high quality products, working with Genset Services' skilled professionals is a value-added component in the sales and installation process. The entire Genset sales team invests an enormous amount of time in assessing just the right generator for their customer's immediate and long-term needs. They are extremely well versed in the product options available, listen carefully, and look at all the factors that may impact a company, including facilities, staff training needs, customers, and budget. Genset's industry professionals also comprise a sales and service team that knows from experience that

technical support during the installation is every bit as critical as the brand and model of the system purchased. Genset can work with a customer's Power-Riser Diagrams and Panel Board Schedules to perform site investigation, financial evaluation, technical evaluation and system design support.

It's also good to know that Genset always strives to help their clients avoid the devastating risks of downtime. When disaster strikes, they put their client's needs first. They have a complete understanding how Florida's history of hurricanes, tornados, flooding, lightning, downed power lines, and extreme temperatures are a constant threat to the vital Utility power supply. All of their customers throughout Florida get assistance with knowledgeable advice, detailed work statements, and fair estimates. Genset's maintenance agreements are also flexible and tailored to a client's specific needs. In addition to product sales, they also service all makes and models of engine driven generators and fire pumps, automatic transfer switches, enclosures, fuel tanks, paralleling and distribution gear and circuit breakers.

Genset Services, Inc. South Florida headquarters is located at 3100 Gateway Drive, Pompano Beach, FL 33069. The Central Florida market is serviced from 2320 Clark St., Suite A9, Apopka, FL 32703. For more information on their full-line of products and service, contact them at 954-956-9252, or visit their website at www.gensetservices.com.



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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

Zero Harm: What it is & How to Achieve it!

This month's Safety presentation was on "Zero Harm and How We Achieve It" presented by Hank Kokenzie, Balfour Beatty Construction's Loss Prevention Manager.

Let's face it: the construction industry operates with certain assumptions about "acceptable" levels of risk on every project. But when is any level of harm acceptable? Three years ago Balfour Beatty initiated a safety program with the goal of "Zero Harm" to the worker, to the public and to the environment. Their expectation is to achieve their goals by 2012.

Kokenzie explained, "We will not risk harm to anyone with a goal of zero occurrences. That means that of the approximately 500,000 people employed by the Balfour Beatty organization subsidiaries, sub-contractors, or partners working anywhere in the world over the course of a

year, there will be no seriously disabling injuries and no long-term harm to health will occur. Simply put, a zero accident frequency rate (AFR). Zero deaths; Zero injuries to the public; and Zero ruined lives among all our people. Currently our AFR is below 0.1".

How They Plan to Achieve the Goal

1) **Tracking** - Identify where they can improve, how to close the gap and when they achieved suc-

cess.

2) **Learning** - Get out and share what works well, adapting to their environment.

3) **Leading** - Every leader commits to Zero Harm and inspires their people to make it their personal priority.

4) **Simplifying** - Make sure the systems and processes help people promote safety, not just get in the way.

5) **Re-thinking** - Taking a look at what they do with fresh eyes, challenge the status quo and re-engineer how it is done to eliminate the risk.

6) **Involving** - Encourage everyone to Make Safety Personal, contributing to Zero Harm through everything that they do.

For example, there were 177,000 reported ladder accidents every year, according to ALSI. It was decided to remove ladders and replace them with rolling stairs that have a work platform and handrails,

where and when it is feasible. Now workers can carry loads up and down and have a safe work platform when they reach the top.

Another example, Many serious injuries are from "struck by" occurring in the blind spot on the right side of equipment and vehicles. All vehicles with less than a 270 degree view are now required to have radar installed. The display units provide an audible and visual warning to the operator when an object or pedestri-

an is in the detection zone. The same is true for overhead utilities detection. An early warning device providing both visual and audible alarms must now be installed to notify equipment operators of the overhead hazard.

"Some companies just talk Safety. Balfour Beatty companies really mean

it. They involve everyone from subs, rental companies, day labor companies, upper management - everyone in every step", concludes Kokenzie. "Make Safety Personal".

Zero Harm is more than just a campaign—it's a way of life. It is a way of taking our already strong safety record to the next level, an unprecedented level within our industry.

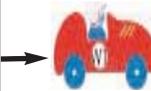
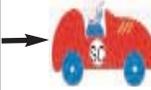
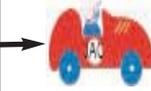
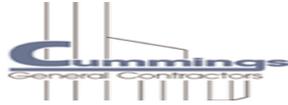
As the CEO of Balfour Beatty puts it, "This is not only behavioral, it's also an economic choice that we have made to pursue Zero Harm whether it's reimbursed or not, and whether it's expected or not. We're pursuing Zero Harm simply because it's the right thing to do."

The next CASF Safety Committee meeting is on Thursday, March 31st, 8:00 AM at the CASF Office, 2929 NW 62 Street, Fort Lauderdale. The meeting is open to anyone interested in a safe workplace.



2011 Membership Challenge
March thru June

Balfour Beatty
Construction



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