

Pinellas County Plumbers First to Receive Green Certification

With U.S. consumers flushing 6.8 billion gallons of drinking water down the toilet every day, it is no surprise that the concept of building green has moved from “we might think about it in the future” to “we must do it now.” Florida homeowners as well as public and private building owners are now asking for green features in their homes and offices. Recognizing this trend and necessity, the Pinellas Association of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors (PAPHCC) held a two-day seminar on green plumbing in cooperation with the GreenPlumbers USA and WorkNet Pinellas. Those completing the workshop were awarded a nationally recognized certification from GreenPlumbers USA, a first in the state of Florida.

Building green incorporates, among other environmental issues, water conservation and energy efficiency. To help plumbers as well as homeowners understand the full scope of opportunities to save energy and water the plumbers learned from the seminar a method of performing a green audit and communicating the results to their customers. Areas on the audit ranged from the typical (leak detection, hot water systems, use of low-flow fixtures, greenhouse gas emissions) to the atypical (rain water collection, gray water and other recycled water systems).

Plumbers' workshop sponsors left, Ray Alger, Castle, a Woolsey Company, and Clifford Allen, JG Speedfit



Pinellas PHCC President Robert Maslo of McDonnell Plumbing believes, “As leaders in the plumbing industry we need to do more to educate consumers in the conservation of water. We and our employees enter thousands of homes daily and by retraining ourselves in green-building methods our members can positively impact purchasing decisions and lower water consumption of Florida householders.” Pinellas PHCC partnered with GreenPlumbers USA because of their expertise in green plumbing and national certifications offered in climate

care, caring for our water, solar hot water, water efficient technology and inspection report services.

The Florida Association of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors will repeat the certification classes at the statewide “The Future is Green” Convention and Trade Show June 27-28, 2008, in Port Canaveral, FL.

For more information on Pinellas PHCC or the upcoming state education program, contact Cheryl Harris, PAPHCC Executive Director, at (727) 209-0890 or go to their website www.paphcc.com. ■

Plumbers in workshop learn the importance of communicating “green” to customers



“GreenPlumbers USA instructor, Doug Kirk



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