



▶ **NEXT FORUM:**
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21
5:30-7:30 PM
TOPIC:
ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL
SYSTEMS IN GREEN BUILDINGS

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Emerging Construction Professionals

forum

BUILDING THE FUTURE LEADERS OF NEBRASKA'S
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



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What about those pioneer “soddies”?

The first settlers in the Great Plains may have unknowingly been pioneers in another way: “green” construction. For immigrants to Nebraska in the late 1800’s, trees and lumber were very scarce and many families built homes from wide strips of prairie sod. These houses were affectionately known as “soddies”.

If you read personal accounts of the families that lived in these homes you know that no one would recommend them. But the concept of a building made from renewable resources, extremely energy efficient, and encourages healthy lifestyles is widely popular now.

How do you have modern building that embody the green principles of a “soddie”?

Technology. Advances in materials, system design, planning, and controls are all part of the solution. Often these components need to be integrated and coordinated to maximize their benefit.

Construction professionals are key to the success of this integration and coordination. As new ideas and technologies are promoted by designers and suppliers you’ll be expected to make it all come to life. Maybe not as daunting as building a sod house in 1881, but challenging nonetheless.

Green and the Financial Crisis

The financial crisis currently gripping Wall Street has started to spill over into nonresidential construction with September payrolls contracting for the first time this year. As construction projects are stalled or delayed, will clients be less likely to include “green building” elements in a move to save money?

The answer to this question won’t be known for some time. Initial reports suggest that the slowdown will not decrease demand for green building in residential construction. In fact, a recent McGraw-Hill report indicates more homebuilders see “green building” as a way to highlight quality in a sluggish market.

It will be interesting to see if commercial construction sees the same support for “green building” practices as the economic downturn continues.

PERSONAL FINANCE TIP BY UNION BANK

Know Your Credit Card Fees. Credit cards give you the convenience of charging what you want when you want but beware of potential fees. When used properly you will avoid the fees for late payment, over-the-limit and cash advances. To learn more listen to our podcast, “Credit Card Tips” at www.ubt.com or call 800-297-2837.

In Case You Missed It

The Impact of LEED - the September ECP Forum

A team from the M.E. Group did a tremendous job of sharing information about LEED to the group at the September 30 ECP Forum. If you weren’t able to attend, or would like to review the presentation notes, go to the AGC-Nebraska Building Chapter website and read or download the presentation slides. Thanks again to Nate Maniktala and Andrew Thompson from M.E. Group for sharing their time and insights. Click the following to go directly to the weblink. <http://www.agcnebuilders.com/documents/ME%20Group%20LEED%20EmergConstProf.pdf>



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