



▶ **NEXT FORUM:**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**  
**5:30-7:30 PM**  
**TOPIC:**  
**INTRODUCTION TO LEED**

○ ISSUE 1 | ○ VOLUME 3 | ○ September 22, 2008

# Emerging Construction Professionals

## forum

BUILDING THE FUTURE LEADERS OF NEBRASKA'S  
 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



ECP FORUM IS SPONSORED BY:  
 AGC-NEBRASKA BUILDING CHAPTER  
<http://www.agcnebuilders.com>  
 MCA-OMAHA CHAPTER  
<http://www.mca-omaha.org>  
 NECA-NBERASKA CHAPTER  
<http://www.neneca.com>



## Banks, Oil and Hurricane Ike

By the time you read this two major financial institutions will cease to exist as they have for a century, the state of Texas will come closer to assessing the billions of dollars worth of hurricane damage to it's buildings and infrastructure, and oil will have fallen under \$100 a barrel for the first time in months.

So what does this all have to do with you? If anything, the 21st century has taught us that we are all interconnected. Failing banks can mean tighter credit which can make it harder for people to get loans for houses and businesses to get loans to build buildings. Storm damage in Texas will likely drive up the cost of

materials and labor. Falling oil prices may release the brake on a sputtering economy. Or maybe not. It's not easy to predict the impact of one event without looking at all the others.

Which is why it's important to pay attention for bigger, long-term trends—those things that will continue to impact the future. The demand for green, sustainable buildings is one of those trends. A slowing economy and cheaper energy may slow demand temporarily, but efforts like LEED will likely be here for the long haul.

Understanding the impact of short-term events and long term trends is a critically important skill for leaders.

## A First: The Bar is Raised

For the first time, a building has received double Platinum LEED® certification. The Lansing, Michigan-based Christman building earned the certification for both construction of the building (LEED Core and Shell) and for its interior (LEED Commercial Interiors).

Much like our fascination with watching Michael Phelps breaking the record for number of gold medals at an Olympics, we all wait to see who will raise the bar to the next level. Once someone goes the extra mile, it seems everyone else is challenged to step up, too. How long until a client strives for dual Platinum certification in Nebraska?

To read the full article about the Christman building, go to:  
[www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.feature/id/1585](http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.feature/id/1585)

## PERSONAL FINANCE TIP BY UNION BANK

**Safeguarding Your Identity.** Protect your personal information by carrying only necessary identification and do not carry your social security card with you. Choose PIN numbers and passwords that are difficult for others to guess by not using personal information such as address, phone #, Social Security #, or date of birth. For more tips listen to our podcast, "Protecting Yourself Against Fraud & Identity Theft" at [www.ubt.com](http://www.ubt.com) or call 800-297-2837.



You Belong Here™

## Coming Up

### A Look at Our Presenters for the Next ECP Forum

Andrew Thompson is a professional mechanical engineer and Senior Associate with M.E. Group. Andrew is a LEED-AP and Certified Commissioning agent He has been involved in more than 70 LEED projects with direct involvement in the commission of six of those projects..

Nate Maniktala, LEED-AP, of M.E. Group, has been involved with the building design and construction industry for 14 years and leads the firm's Green Services Division. He acts as a LEED consultant and project manager for clients across the nation, including LEED Consultant for Kraft Foods in a review of all facilities.