



January 31, 2012

Small, solar and “hyper-insulated”

The “CHIP House” is a [750-square-foot, solar-powered experimental structure](#), controllable through a smartphone or Xbox, that produces three times the energy it uses and looks like it’s wrapped in a mattress.

DIY street improvements

Last year, we linked to the work of a community organization in Dallas which was taking streetscape upgrades into its own hands. That approach [appears to be spreading](#).

Proactive zoning

New York City was the first US city to adopt local zoning, nearly a century ago. Now, it’s using zoning as a [tool to increase livability](#).

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The Metro Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department publishes this weekly digest to inform members of the Planning Commission, Metro Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, and other interested parties about planning and growth issues, local and in other communities, which could apply to our city and region, with particular emphasis on appropriate development, smart growth, multimodal transportation, and other information which will help us build a sustainable future and a more livable city.