

Courses offer info on green building

College classes examine topics like home energy audits, solar power

By **MARY SCOTT**

LANDMARK NEWS SERVICE

Homeowners, renters, those in the building industry or anyone else in Carroll County with an interest in the environment will have the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of going green.

Carroll Community College is offering a series of five courses this spring available through a partnership with the Green Building Institute.

"We think that education is the real foundation and building block if you're going to go green," said David Woolley-Wilson, executive director of GBI.

A nonprofit institute based in Jessup, GBI seeks to foster sustainable living practices through education. Carroll Community will provide the facility for the classes, and GBI will provide the expert instructors.

"Carroll wanted to venture into this area for obvious reasons," said Sally Long, senior director of Lifelong Learning and Program Support Systems for the college. "Everywhere you look there are articles and conversations about sustainable living practices."

She said being environmentally conscious is very much in the public's mind

right now and that as a community college, Carroll tries to serve the community.

Woolley-Wilson said the five-part series of classes will begin with a class called "Going Green," which will examine what it actually means to be environmentally protective. He said someone can't be expected to go green if they don't know what it means to do so.

"Sometimes people think going green is about recycling programs. Really, going green is about respect for yourself, respect for your neighbors and respect for the environment," Woolley-Wilson said.

The other classes in the series focus on topics like home energy audits, solar energy systems, smart water use and indoor air quality.

The five classes are set in a specific sequence so that one topic logically leads to the next. For example, Woolley-Wilson said the class on energy audits takes place before the class on solar energy because any good solar en-

ergy company would recommend an energy audit before installing hot water panels.

The class on water use will teach students how to reduce water consumption by 50 percent to 100 percent through water harvesting, according to a press release, and the class on indoor air quality will discuss ways to make the home or office a healthier environment.

Woolley-Williams said T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va., has seen fewer days lost to illness from both students and faculty after taking steps to improve its air quality.

In the future, Long said she envisioned the college continuing its partnership with GBI, as well as by developing its own green curriculum and splitting the courses into classes, some aimed at the consumer and others for those in the building industry.

Mary Scott can be reached at 410-857-3316 or mary.scott@westminsteradvocate.com.

"Really, going green is about respect for yourself, respect for your neighbors and respect for the environment."
David Woolley-Wilson
 Executive director of the Green Building Institute

