

Green Building Institute E-Newsletter

First Hand Experience: Heating Your Own Hot Water

Upcoming Classes & Events

Featured Members



Dear Lynn,

First Hand Experience: Heating Your Own Hot Water



A large part of residential energy is used to heat domestic hot water. This hot water is used year round by showers, washing machines and other household appliances. Most homes use electric, gas, or propane hot water heaters to heat their domestic hot water. These

heaters depend on non-renewable resources and are expensive to operate. Two alternative sources that can be used to heat hot water are solar and wind power.

Danya French, a Green Building Institute intern from Wilde Lake High School in Columbia, Maryland talked with **Brian Frymiare**, a resident of North East, Maryland, who uses both solar and wind power to heat the hot water in his home.

Danya: What factors went into your decision on choosing an energy source for your home?



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Brian: There were a multitude of them. The number one reason is that I wanted to save money. The second would be being gentler to the environment.

Danya: Would you recommend using wind and/or solar energy to the average Maryland homeowner?

Brian: Absolutely positively yes, solar especially. Maryland is pretty friendly right now with the 20% grant money for solar and the matching tax credit. I think that's great.

Danya: Did you have any major setbacks in your projects? What were they and how did you go about solving them?

Brian: I use a solar panel to heat my domestic hot water, and it has exceeded all my expectations. The solar industry has really got their act together, and the systems pretty much perform as advertised.

The wind power, however, has been a setback. It has not performed up to my expectations. My wind tower is down for maintenance right now and has been for the past six months. This has been a huge learning experience for me.

Danya: Was it difficult to install the solar panels and wind towers? Was any experience or were any skills required?

Brian: It was relatively easy. I needed some mechanical and electrical skills for the wind turbines, and plumbing skills for my solar hot water system.

Danya: Do you use your solar and wind energy for anything other than hot water?

Brian: No. I plan to put an additional system in my house to generate electricity. My goal is to not have an electric bill.

Thanks for sharing Brian!



Upcoming Classes & Events

Make going green one of your New Year's resolutions! Sign up for a class today!

Green Building Institute class titles in CAPS.

Thursday, January 4, 2007

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Awareness Campaign

@ Friends of the Earth

1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW #600

Washington, D.C.

Contact: Greg Drury (202) 686-9813

Monday, January 8, 2007

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

[Green Happy Hour](#)

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance

The Waterfront Hotel

1710 Thames St.

Baltimore, MD

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[Green Building Network](#)

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

6:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[AIA Committee on the Environment \(COTE\)dc meeting](#)

@ Inscape Studio

1215 Connecticut Ave NW 3rd Floor

Washington, D.C.

Thursday, January 11, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[FREE Movie Night: AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH](#)

GW IPL & Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

RSVP (443) 733-1234

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

[INTRO TO PASSIVE SOLAR DESIGN](#)

- Healthier indoor air quality

- Lower energy bills, increased freedom from utilities
- Low maintenance & reduced operating costs and repairs
- Sunny interiors & open floor plans

7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Thursday, February 1, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[INTRO TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS](#)

Satellite Campus
Potomac Overlook Regional Park
Arlington, VA

Sunday & Monday, February 4 - 5, 2007

[Climate Conference](#)

George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

6:30pm - 8:30pm

[Green Building Network](#)

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Saturday, February 24, 2007

INTRO TO GREEN HOME RENOVATIONS*

7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

*Details to be posted on website this week.

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[Green Building Network](#)

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Tuesday - Thursday, March 20-22, 2007

[GreenTech Conference and Exposition 2007](#)

Baltimore Convention Center

Saturday, March 24, 2007

[HOW TO BE GREEN](#)

- Efficient and healthy homes
- Solar hot water for your home
- Rainwater collection for garden use
- Solar electric for your home

7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

[Green Building Network](#)

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Friday & Saturday, April 13-14, 2007

[Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Expo](#)

Harford Community College

Bel Air, MD

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

**RAINGARDEN & RAINWATER COLLECTION
workshop**

Satellite Campus

Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Arlington, VA

Saturday, April 21, 2007

**[DAYLIGHT TUBE INSTALLATION
DEMONSTRATION workshop](#)**

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 24 - 25, 2007

[National Sustainable Design Expo & P3
Competition](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

National Mall

Washington, D.C.

Saturday, April 28, 2007

**RAINGARDEN & RAINWATER COLLECTION
workshop**

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

6:30pm - 8:30pm

[Green Building Network](#)

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

[INTRO TO GREEN ROOFS](#)

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Saturday, May 19, 2007

GREEN ROOF BUS TOUR

Please call (443) 733-1234.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

HOW TO BE GREEN

- Efficient and healthy homes
- Solar hot water for your home
- Rainwater collection for garden use
- Solar electric for your home

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Green Building Network

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

@ The Green Building Institute

7761 Waterloo Rd.

Jessup, MD

Register for a Green Building Institute class

Featured Members

Business Member



Chesapeake Wind & Solar LLC

[Chesapeake Wind & Solar LLC](#)

provides solar energy engineering, design and installation for

residential and commercial clients in the mid-Atlantic region.

Corporate Members



A QUESTAR

Corporate Gold Member

[Questar Properties, Inc.](#)

With over 75 years of proven

performance, Questar Properties is the mid-Atlantic region's leading developer of planned communities. Questar's vertically integrated organization specializes in site acquisition, development, design, construction and management of institutional quality residential and commercial properties.

Corporate Bronze Member

PH Wietsma Associates, Inc.

Consultation/Inspection & Design work for new and existing buildings. Serving the D.C. and Baltimore metropolitan region.

Founding Member



[Architectural Support Group](#) ASG® is a group of Architects and Construction consultants who specialize in building analysis, forensic investigations, and Green building and both Residential (Multi-family) and Commercial LEED® projects.

The Green Building Institute, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, fosters sustainable building practices through education and example.

Sincerely,

Hannah C. Wood
Executive Director
Green Building Institute

email: info@greenbuildinginstitute.org
web: <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org>

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