

Green Building Institute March E-Newsletter

Home Inspections for
Efficiency

Spring 2007 Classes &
Events

Free D.C. Home Energy
Audits & Montgomery
County Energy Rewards

Featured Members

Coming Soon - St.
Thomas Vacation Raffle

Green Home Renovations Class



Stan Sersen with Bob
Hegarty's Case Study
Team



Dear Lynn,

Home Inspections for Efficiency

Q&A with Paul Wietsma, AIA

A home inspection is an examination and evaluation of the condition of a house. A home inspector checks the foundation, basement, crawl spaces, heating system, water heater, air-conditioning system, structure, plumbing, electrical, and other aspects of a building for problems that may require repair. The inspector then reports these problems to the homeowner or potential homebuyer.

How does this apply to green building? A home that is running properly is better for the occupants and better for the environment. Intern **Danya French** finds out more from Green Building Institute Board Member, **Paul Wietsma**, who has done home inspections in the D.C. area for 20 years.

Danya: How did you get into doing home inspections?

Paul: I was practicing Architecture in a large firm in DC on a project that consumed all my energy. My long time best friend, Stan Sersen, contacted me one evening while I was still in the office working and proposed that I meet with an individual who owned a home inspection firm. We met and I agreed to accompany him on a few inspections. I enjoyed the experience and realized that there was a lot I needed to learn.

Danya: How does home inspection apply to green building?

Paul: A possible application of green building is that inspectors typically will address the energy efficiency of

**Paul Bassett with Kathy
Stockton's Case Study
Team**



Alan Abrams instructs



**Daniel McCauley's Case
Study Team**

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the building in terms of attic insulation, door and window weather-stripping/energy performance and maybe the overall efficiency of the mechanical equipment. Inspectors do not do energy audits but rather describe the building's major items that require repair along with suggested maintenance.

Danya: Are there any problems that you often come across in your work that could be solved by an aspect of green building?

Paul: Yes, excessive heat gain or loss due to the building's orientation, window and door selection, lack of insulation or ventilation and light fixture and mechanical selection.

Danya: Do you have any advice to offer homeowners about energy efficiency?

Paul: Homeowners should have energy audits to create a plan for maximum efficiency and the least expenditure.

Thank you Paul!

Spring 2007 Classes & Events

Green Building Institute class titles in CAPS.

Green Building Network: Please note, there will be no meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2007.

Thursday, March 1, 2007

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

[INTRO TO HOME ENERGY AUDITS](#)

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Thursday, March 8, 2007

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Baltimore Green Roof Design 101](#)

Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland

Friday & Saturday, March 9-10, 2007

[American Conservation Film Festival](#)

The Howard County Conservancy
Woodstock, Maryland

Friday, March 16, 2007

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[Green Buildings in the Chesapeake](#)

Speaker: Architect Janet Harrison
Howard Community College Smith Theatre
Columbia, MD

Saturday, March 17, 2007

7:00 p.m.

[Chesapeake Climate Action Network Fundraiser w/ Bill McKibben](#)

Foundry United Methodist Church
Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[NAHB Builder Mart](#)

Green Building Institute will be in the Green Way section.
Maryland State Fairgrounds
Timonium, MD

Tuesday - Thursday, March 20-22, 2007

[GreenTech Conference and Exposition 2007](#)

Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, MD

Saturday, March 31, 2007

9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[HOW TO BE GREEN](#)

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

@ The Green Building Institute
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

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

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

[INTRO TO PASSIVE SOLAR DESIGN](#)

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Friday & Saturday, April 13-14, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Expo](#)

Harford Community College
Bel Air, MD

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[HOW TO BUILD A RAIN GARDEN](#)

SATELLITE CAMPUS
Potomac Overlook Regional Park
Arlington, VA

Saturday, April 21, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

[DAYLIGHT TUBE INSTALLATION DEMO. WORKSHOP](#)

@ The Green Building Institute
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.

Tuesday, May 1, 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, May 8, 2007

7:00 p.m.

[UMBC hosts Former Vice President Al Gore](#)

Open to the public - \$35 per ticket
UMBC Retriever Activities Center

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

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

[INTRO TO GREEN ROOFS](#)

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Saturday, May 19, 2007

GREEN ROOF BUS TOUR

Tour of 5 Northern Virginia green roofs.
Please call (443) 733-1234 for more details.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[HOW TO BE GREEN](#)

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

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Tuesday, June 5, 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

Saturday, June 9, 2007

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

RAINWATER CAR WASH

@ The Green Building Institute
7761 Waterloo Rd.
Jessup, MD

Please call (443) 733-1234 to volunteer.

[Find out more....](#)

Free D.C. Home Energy Audits & Montgomery County Energy Rewards

DC: Free Home Energy Audits

The District Department of the Environment is pleased to offer free home energy audits to DC single family homeowner's interested in saving energy, money, and the planet.

A Honeywell certified energy auditor will identify ways that a household can save money and save energy. You are encouraged to call the Energy Hotline at (202) 673-6750 to schedule a FREE audit.

Montgomery County Announces Clean Energy Rewards

A program designed to help take the guesswork out of purchasing clean energy. Purchasing clean energy is one way we can protect our assets and continue to flourish as a community. To sign up for more information, please visit the [Montgomery County website](#).

Featured Members

Business Member



[Abrams Design Build.](#)

Home builders and remodelers, taking a sustainable—and affordable—approach to beautiful space.

Business Member



[Hydro-Logix Solutions, Inc.](#)

specializes in the design and engineering of rainwater collection systems that use the water for irrigating landscapes, flushing toilets, washing cars, and other non-potable uses.

Corporate Bronze Member



**STRAUGHAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES, INC.**

[Straughan Environmental Services, Inc.](#), a woman-owned environmental consulting firm, offers compliance, mitigation, design, and outreach services in relation to a wide variety of public works projects.

Corporate Bronze Member

PH Wietsma Associates, Inc.

Consultation/Inspection & Design work for new and

existing buildings. Serving the D.C. and Baltimore metropolitan region.

Corporate Gold Member



integrated organization specializes in site acquisition, development, design, construction and management of institutional quality residential and commercial properties.

[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

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.

Coming Soon - St. Thomas Vacation Raffle

Looking for Volunteers

The Green Building Institute will soon be announcing the opening of a St. Thomas, U.S. Virginia Islands vacation raffle. All proceeds will benefit The Green

Building Institute.

Interested in selling tickets, posting flyers or serving on the Event Committee? Please contact info@greenbuildinginstitute.org or (443) 733-1234. Thank you!!

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

Sincerely,

Hannah C. Wood
Green Building Institute

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

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