

## Baltimore Chapter

### March 2010

“Going Green Saves You Green” was the message members heard at their February lunch meeting with **David Woodley-Wilson, Executive Director of the Green Building Institute (GBI)**. He described in detail the nonprofit institute’s sustainable building practices and educational offerings. GBI is conducting a walking tour from 10 a.m. to noon on April 3rd in Chevy Chase, Maryland -- one of the greenest neighborhoods in the Mid-Atlantic. Conducted in partnership with Bethesda Bungalows, walkers will visit an enclave of 8 unique custom homes including one at 5133 Fairglen Lane that is the first in the country to be awarded both the coveted emerald status by the NAHB National Green Building Standard, and LEED platinum. Register on line for the tour. <http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>

The Baltimore LAI chapter meets in a classroom at the downtown campus of the Johns Hopkins University. JHU had just announced that the School of Medicine had received a LEED commercial interior silver certification for its renovated Dept of Facilities Management offices and clinical Information Systems Education Center. This is the first location in the university to achieve LEED status of any kind. University officials say that these facilities may be the first, but not last, as four more buildings have been submitted for LEED certification. JHU announced it would spend almost \$74 million over the next 15 years as part of an effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions by half and make the school more energy efficient. LEEDing its way to a greener institution, JHU’s Facilities Management saw the certification process as an opportunity to foster the school’s sustainability effort.

Expanding on what Woodley-Wilson cited as the benefits of a green building to the environment, JHU’s manager of Energy Management and Environmental Stewardship and Chair of the Johns Hopkins Sustainability Committee, Davis Bookhart said, “these buildings tend to be healthier buildings. You reduce the amount of toxins in the work environment that can be potentially harmful. The lighting levels in LEED buildings also are better and efficient. All these benefits have shown to reduce absenteeism and increase productivity. People are simply happier working or studying in a building that they know is green.”

The City of Baltimore agrees, having adopted in 2007 a green building law. Considered as one of the most sweeping in the nation, the law requires commercial and multifamily buildings as small as 10,000 square feet to be built to meet the “silver” rating under the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED standards or some equivalent set of requirements set by the city. LAI member and architect Kim Schaefer, TerraLogos: eco architecture 9c, <http://www.terralogos.com/> was hired to create alternative “green star” building standards. The City has not yet published the regulations to implement the law but is expected to do so soon.

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