

ATTENTION

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS

UNIQUE EXPERIENTIAL-BASED **GREEN** CURRICULUM

[Learn About Green Homes](#)

USGBC LEED Silver Home

Spring 2009

CIVIL ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS & SCIENCES ARCHITECTURE

The **GREEN BEGINNINGS BOOK** explains the experience of learning about, planning, and building an award winning green home from the *Homeowners' Perspective*. The **GREEN BEGINNINGS VIDEO** presents the same experience from the *Professionals' Perspective* and continues the dialogue to complete the conversation between the homeowners and their green builder, architect, sustainable engineer, and landscape architect to reveal both sides of a fascinating green home story.

We are presently seeking graduate and undergraduate level faculty members to present our new and innovative experiential approach to learning about green homes as presented from the Homeowners (consumer mindset) and the Professionals viewpoint as a stimulating classroom experience and forum.

The Homeowners story provides a unique opportunity to understand green homes built to the exacting criteria of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED For Homes Green Building Rating System, the national benchmark for green design and construction. It also provides a unique opportunity to witness today's consumers embracing new technologies as our collective awareness of energy and environmental issues permeate the global culture.

The **GREEN BEGINNINGS HOUSE**, a LEED Silver and Energy Star Qualified Home in Kennett Square, PA has been named a USGBC Project Profile, one of only eight homes in the U.S.A. selected to showcase the LEED For Homes Green Building Rating System. Created in the spirit of the USGBC's integrative approach to planning and building green homes, the curriculum provides students a unique opportunity to learn about green homes and begin to understand how consumers are adapting to change as they prepare to enter the new world workforce of new green jobs.

While the adjunct nature and universal relevance of this special curriculum allows educators to introduce the assignment into class schedules anytime during the semester, the numerous disciplines included in the content posture it ideally as an opening discussion at the beginning of a semester.

HOW IT WORKS

Educators will be provided with a complimentary textbook edition of **GREEN BEGINNINGS: The Story of How We Built Our Green & Sustainable Home** (ISBN 1-4392-1219-8), and a DVD version of the **GREEN BEGINNINGS VIDEO** to preview. The book is a two-hour (max) read; the video has a 25-minute running time.

Students read the book, view the video, and convene to discuss the content.

Books and DVD Videos, including PDF and downloadable versions of both are available with special student pricing at our website, Amazon.com. Wholesale book distributor, Baker & Taylor, works with all university bookstores. Textbook cover edition books and DVD's are complimentary to faculty, along with suggested topics for classroom discussion.

BONUS CURRICULUM FOR PA, DE, NJ, MD SCHOOLS

Educators who elect to include our curriculum will be invited to bring students to tour The **GREEN BEGINNINGS HOUSE**. Our 90 Minute Educational Tours will give students the opportunity to have a hands-on experience in one of the first LEED homes in the nation and ask questions about the home and homebuilding experience to someone who's been there. (Limited offer)

Additionally, an author or other primary professional contributor to the **GREEN BEGINNINGS HOUSE** will be available upon request to conduct a Q & A session in-person or over the Internet.

BOOK REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

Kirkus Discoveries (Kirkus Reviews):

"...most people participate in environmentalism only when it's easy or convenient. The Topels' passion for an ecologically sustainable home was neither."

"...the authors provide sound advice and education...(and) the book remains entertaining and educational for both the average consumer and those looking to embark on their own green journey. An excellent, informative guide to sustainable building."

Ethical Markets Media, Rosalinda Lidh, Executive Director;

"Going green might be all the rage, but how does one apply it to the core of ones life, to ones home, top to bottom? In Green Beginnings, readers are guided through the thought and practical process of making sustainable living a reality with depth, beyond adding CFLs and extra insulation. A must read for anyone designing or redesigning their home with our global home in mind."

Gang Chen, LEED AP, and AIA, author of "LEED AP Exam Guide";

"A valuable book for anyone interested in going green or building a green home, January 5, 2009"

"Green Beginnings: The Story of How We Built Our Green & Sustainable Home" is an important contribution to the revolutionary trend of Going Green."

"It is a valuable book for anyone interested in going green or building a green home."

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Avrim and Vicki Topel are both University of Delaware graduates. Avrim Topel, BA, CHA, spent 35 years as a real estate developer, Realtor, and hotelier, served on executive boards and committees with ITT Sheraton Corp. and Best Western International, and taught at Widener University and the University of Delaware. Vicki Topel, BSED, teaches elementary education and is an active animal rights advocate and physical fitness enthusiast. Together, the couple built the **GREEN BEGINNINGS HOUSE**, one of the first USGBC LEED Silver and Energy Star Qualified homes in the nation in Kennett Square, PA. Their **GREEN BEGINNINGS** outreach initiative promotes learning about green homes with their book, video, and 90 Minute Educational Tour program. The couple has been married for 25 years and resides in Kennett Square, PA.

HOW TO PROCEED

Contact Avrim and Vicki Topel at LEEDSilver@yahoo.com, www.greenbeginningsthebook.com, or call 610-388-1914.