

# DVGBC News

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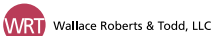
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## Meet Charlie

When Charlie Tomlinson helped found the Delaware Valley Green Building Council back in 2000 and subsequently became one of the first board members, he had no idea just how involved in the sustainability and green building movement he would become. His journey parallels that of the growth and success of our chapter and that of USGBC, the national organization.

Charlie, a long-time partner in Wallace, Roberts and Todd — a multi-disciplinary firm long recognized for its planning and design based on ecological principles — has also been the president of DVGBC since its inception as a USGBC Chapter in 2002. In response to the question of what made him decide to make such a commitment, Charlie said, “I guess I’d reached my own tipping point. The building community — my professional world — is one of the biggest users of natural resources and causes some of the largest environmental problems we have. I felt I had to get involved in finding alternatives through sustainable design and building.”

His commitment is extensive. Charlie got involved with the USGBC when the first chapters were being formed (such as DVGBC) and helped to create the national chapter network. First he was appointed as a member and then Vice Chair of the first Chapter Steering Committee. In this role, he chaired the task force that developed the current chapter framework comprised of eight regions throughout the nation. DVGBC is part of the Northeast Corridor Regional Council (NECRC). The regionalization of chapters was aimed at both strengthening the chapters in their ability to achieve the overall mission of transforming the marketplace and also to recognize physiological, sociological, and economic differences around the country.

Working with USGBC, Charlie helped create the process of making sure that all chapters have a voice at USGBC. The Chapter Steering Committee is now made up of two representatives elected by the chapters in each of the eight regions. Charlie was elected to chair this newly formed Chapter Steering Committee. Subsequently, he was also elected co-chair of NECRC.

In addition, he serves on numerous other committees and task forces which deal with the further expansion and effectiveness of DVGBC and USGBC in their efforts to promote sustainable design, building, and operation and to continuously improve the effectiveness of the LEED rating system.

“I believe that my involvement at the national level has allowed me to bring back to our chapter best practices and shared experiences which have helped to improve our own effectiveness, such as the use of the dynamic governance process,” Charlie says. “The success of the sustainability movement and the effectiveness of our battle to stem the tide of global warming is dependent on our ability to stay grounded in our mission. By focusing on it, we will make a difference.”

In his five years as president, Charlie noted that he has been incredibly impressed at the power of people when they work collaboratively toward a common goal. The chapter has now grown to about 650 members. Charlie is pleased that, as president, he has been instrumental in helping to establish an organizational structure for USGBC and DVGBC that is itself sustainable.

He is also pleased at the dramatic change in general awareness in five years. “I was thrilled that my wife knew about and would consider bamboo flooring!” Not only is the general public aware of the issues, but every day more buildings and communities are being designed to achieve a LEED standard. Charlie’s rather proud that the first LEED CI space in Philadelphia and the first LEED Gold project of any kind in Philadelphia was the new office of Wallace, Roberts and Todd at 1700 Market Street. “Since then,” he notes, “the market place is demanding sustainable design and building. I think that’s a good measure of success for the green building effort.”



Charlie Tomlinson, President of DVGBC

## Platinum Sponsor Spotlight

Lutron Electronics is committed to helping design and construction professionals achieve the goals of sustainable and efficient building by offering leading-edge product solutions for integrated control of electric and natural light, and unsurpassed project support.

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economic dividends. Lutron solutions, in effect, perform much like an annuity, paying for themselves year after year.

For information, contact Jon Gensler, LEED-AP, at jgensler@lutron.com.





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# Sustainable Learning

Philadelphia University, Master of Science in Sustainable Design Program (MSSD)

Beginning this fall, Philadelphia University will offer a new Master of Science in Sustainable Design Program (MSSD). This program offers a balance between understanding in the conceptualization, design and realization of a sustainable-built environment. The program prizes collaboration between seemingly disparate fields — from architecture to construction management to engineering—and employs faculty from those diverse fields to underscore the importance of interdisciplinary design in the program.

Building on a historical strength of the University, the MSSD Program features special lab and design-build courses focusing on green materials. This aspect of the MSSD Program includes real-world, funded-research projects that allow students to connect their theoretical knowledge with important environmental and energy-efficiency challenges. Graduates of the program are proficient in sustainable design or participate significantly in the sustainable-design process — a technically challenging, rapidly evolving and vitally important development for the future of our planet.

“The principle of sustainability is reshaping the way we think about our homes, our communities and the world and encouraging us to improve the way we design, build and live in 21st century,” said Rob Fleming, M.Arch., associate professor of architecture and director of the Sustainable Design Program.

A leader in the green building and design movement for the past decade, Fleming also is co-director of Philadelphia University’s Engineering and Design Institute, a state-of-the-art educational and research facility focused on green materials, sustainable design and community outreach. Fleming is a founding board member of the Delaware Valley Green Building Council and a member of Montgomery County’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force.

The MSSD puts Philadelphia University on the cutting edge of architectural and design programs. Sustainability, green design and environmentally friendly construction are among the hottest buzzwords in the industry today, as more and more architects, designers and builders respond to the growing demand for buildings made from recycled or renewable resources and that require less energy to operate than traditionally constructed buildings.

The Sustainable Design Program will offer students the opportunity to explore avenues of study ranging from design exploration to applied research and will foster collaboration in the fields of architecture, construction management and engineering. The program features special laboratory and design-build courses focusing on green materials and includes real-world, funded research projects that allow students to connect their theoretical knowledge with important environmental and energy-efficiency challenges.

The new program is designed primarily for those with undergraduate degrees in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, engineering and construction management. Interested applicants in other fields also are encouraged to apply and, if accepted, will need to successfully complete a summer preparatory course before starting the program.

The M.S. in Sustainable Design is a 27-month, part-time program based at the Engineering and Design Institute, which is housed at the Philadelphia University Research Center in Manayunk. For more information, visit [www.philau.edu/green](http://www.philau.edu/green).

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.



**Rob Fleming (right),** M.Arch., Associate Professor of Architecture at Philadelphia University, is director of the new Sustainable Design Program