

DVGBC News

Spring/Summer 2006



DELAWARE VALLEY GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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Meet

Meet Jill Kowalski, LEED AP, Executive Director of DVGBC

Can you identify when your interest in and awareness of environmental issues began?

The fall semester of my junior year at Syracuse University, I registered for an environmental science class through SUNY School of Environmental Science & Forestry that featured an impressive list of internationally recognized experts. I was taken back by the research addressing the endangered balance of Earth's natural systems. My interest was peaked, and the rest is history.

Environmental design has always been logical to me – something I just expected of the industry. I feel strongly that clients hire design professionals for their expertise, and for me, that expertise must include environmentally sound design decisions that promote individual and corporate health. No one set out to degrade the environment. It was a consequence of the industrial revolution and the fast and cheap mentality that piggybacked on it.

Have you seen this issue impact the practice of interior design?

Absolutely, this issue has had an enormous impact on interior design, especially from the product manufacturing side! I still remember my first job at Space Design, asking all the sales reps about the environmental impacts of their products. They looked at me like I had three heads and referred me to their technical people. I recently had lunch with one of those reps, and he laughed saying, "Who could have imagined where this has gone!"

As Executive Director of DVGBC, what are your goals for the organization in the foreseeable future?

I have been repeatedly impressed with this organization and the incredible amount of energy and passion behind it. This chapter is a national leader and will continue to set the bar high. It is my job to direct this group's enthusiasm toward the advancement and promotion of sustainable and environmentally responsible planning, design, construction and operation of the Delaware Valley's buildings, landscapes, cities and communities, mindful of the legacy left for future generations.

I am a licensed interior designer with 10 years of commercial experience. As an advocate for sustainable design my entire career, I understand the frustration of gathering consistent and accurate information that is crucial in the success of green projects. Education, of everyone involved with the development process, is so important to the advancement of this movement. DVGBC will play an enormous role in providing information and resources.



As a young organization with 300+ members, we need to actively engage our membership. A well rounded and ongoing dialogue must include everyone's experiences (good, bad or ugly). Valuable lessons are learned every day, and DVGBC will capture and share those stories. This comprehensive knowledge base, couple with the existing expertise in the Delaware Valley, will result in more green development and supportive legislation.

Achieve

LEED CI - Gold achieved by WRT Planning and Design

WRT Planning and Design, based in Philadelphia and with five offices located throughout the United States, recently moved to 1700 Market Street. As an active participant in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Delaware Valley Green Building Council (DVGBC), the firm's principals were committed to renovating their space in accordance with "green" standards. At the time, USGBC had initiated a pilot program as a precursor to the release of LEED CI (Commercial Interiors) of which WRT became the first participant in the Delaware Valley region.

Under the direction of a team led by WRT architects, the firm has completed its renovation, for which it was awarded LEED Gold Certification from the US Green Building Council. Green strategies include daylighting, ambitious specification of recycled and regionally manufactured materials and implementation of an aggressive recycling program during construction. WRT earned extra points toward its certification by creating signage within its office identifying various strategies and has opened its doors to many individuals and groups to learn from the firm's experience. (photo on page 2)



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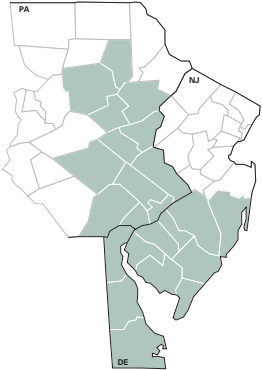
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DVGBC-at-a-Glance
(as of March 2006)

DVGBC serves:
Pennsylvania
(Lehigh Valley and
Philadelphia
Metropolitan Area),
Delaware and
Southern New Jersey



Chapter members:

312

Number LEED APs:

485

Number of
Certified Projects:

10

Number of
Registered Projects:
approx.

45

Hits on the DVGBC
website (monthly):

> 4,500

Green

**is the New Color of
Wilmington's Christina
River Waterfront**

The waterfront area along the Christina River in Wilmington, Delaware was intensely industrial in the past. It was home to tanneries, ship builders and rail car manufacturers and languished for decades as these industries declined. For the last decade new development including an arts & exhibition center, minor league baseball stadium, retail outlets, marketplace, restaurants, and office space has revitalized the area, and there is even more on the way.

Christina Crescent is a unique public/private partnership between the State of Delaware, Department of Transportation and Pettinaro Enterprises that will be located on the Christina Riverfront on a reclaimed brownfield property. The office and retail building is six-stories, 280,000 square feet and the parking structure is five-stories, 420,000 square feet with parking for 1,120 vehicles. The public park will offer an area of quiet repose. A two-story open walkway

through the office and retail building will connect the park to the successful Wilmington Riverwalk completed in 2001. A walkway sliced through the parking structure will connect the park to an expanding system of bike trails and walkways.

Each of the structures will have a living green roof, native landscaping, recycled rainwater, accommodation for alternative fuel vehicles, efficient lighting and light colored materials, photo-voltaics for 5% of energy use, use of materials with recycled content and of local manufacture, and recycling 75% of construction debris.

This project will be Delaware's largest with LEED certification, and when completed will bring full time residents to the area. Justison Landing by the Buccini Pollin Group is a mixed use development with 700 residential units in the form of condominiums and townhouses complimented by retail and office space.

As the transformation of the Wilmington Riverfront from industrial wasteland to thriving urban center continues, the area will also be a showcase for this unique project in sustainable design.



Christina Crescent, located on a reclaimed brownfield property, consists of an office and retail building and an adjacent parking structure. Each of the structures will have a living green roof, and when completed will be Delaware's largest with LEED certification.

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WRT Planning and Design achieved a LEED CI - Gold certification for the renovation of their new Philadelphia Headquarters at 1700 Market Street. Shown below is WRT's welcoming, spacious lobby. (story on page 1)

