

Small Developers, Big Goals

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ABSTRACT

The green building industry must focus on not only creating great new buildings, but improving the existing building stock. Sustainable Comfort, Inc. has taken on the challenge in the industrial city of Worcester, MA and is retrofitting three story apartment buildings – locally known as triple deckers – for energy efficiency, comfort, safety and indoor air quality. Come hear a case study featuring the methods used and challenges faced by a small developer when renovating one of these 120-year-old buildings. Topics to be discussed include green building methods, workforce training, financing, and long term operation.

BIOGRAPHIES

Margo Valdes has worked as a building performance consultant since 2008 on projects across New England and New York. Her experience includes energy audits, energy and water physical needs assessments, general building consulting and HERS ratings on over 2,000 units under the ENERGY STAR Homes, LEED for Homes, and Enterprise Green Communities certification programs. She worked in New York City performing energy audits on large multifamily buildings under NYC's Local Law 87. Margo served as a technician in a national study on Indoor Air Quality, traveling to Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota to perform blower door testing and inspections on residential dwellings. In 2015 Margo worked on a research study measuring the effectiveness of rooftop Energy Recovery Ventilators in the Boston area. In her current role, Margo serves as Director of Sustainable Development for Sustainable Comfort in Worcester, MA. Her educational background includes a B.A. in Economics with a minor in Physics from Clark University in Worcester, MA, coursework in Life Cycle Analysis of Building Materials at the Boston Architectural College and the BuildingEnergy Masters Series Zero Net Energy Homes Course.

Taylor Bearden has extensive experience in small-scale multifamily development and management, having worked for Worcester, MA's premier student housing developer after graduating from Clark University, where he studied geography and community development and planning. He managed 150 units of student housing as Property Manager, and oversaw the redevelopment of over 50 residential units and the sale of 10 properties as Director of Operations. Taylor is currently Vice President of Operations for Sustainable Comfort, a green building consulting, development, construction, and property management company with offices in Worcester and Syracuse, NY. He is a principle of Worcester-based SCIREH Three LLC, a private equity fund investing in sustainable neighborhood redevelopment in the Belmont Hill District of Worcester.

Taylor is a StartUp Worcester Fellowship recipient, and a member of Clark University's Student Run Venture advisory board. He actively mentors aspiring entrepreneurs and provides consulting services for real estate developers, property managers, and investors.

