



# Buffalo Environmental Management Commission Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET February 2007

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for your information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases funding sources for green buildings.

According to the USEPA green, or sustainable building, is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of construction, renovation, operation, maintenance, and demolition. Research and experience increasingly demonstrate that when buildings are designed and operated with their lifecycle impacts in mind, they can provide great environmental, economic and social benefits.

The USEPA has stated that buildings in the United States account for 39% of the nations total energy use, 12% of the total water consumption, 68% of the total energy consumption and 38% of the carbon dioxide emissions. Buildings have a large impact on the environment, human health and the economy. By adopting green building techniques economic and environmental performance can be enhanced. Green construction methods can be integrated into buildings at any stage, from design and construction, to renovation and deconstruction. However, the most significant benefits can be obtained if the design and construction team takes an integrated approach from the earliest stages of a building project.

The potential benefits of green building can include: reduced operating costs, improved occupant productivity, enhanced occupant comfort and health, reduced waste streams, minimized local infrastructure use, and improved air and water quality. The City may wish to consider these benefits when renovating schools, building new fire stations and upgrading public works and other publicly owned facilities. Additionally, the City may wish to require that green principles be applied to all renovations and new and future development, public and private. An example of a green building presently being constructed in the City is the new Health Now office building.

Attached is a list of green building funding opportunities. Additional information on each funding program is presented in detail on the USEPA's Green Building web site at [www.epa.gov/greenbuilding](http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding).

Mr. Denis Hayes, Bullitt Foundation Director, will speak on "Greening Buffalo: Addressing Climate Change While Renewing Our Economy" at noon on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Asbury Hall in The Church on Delaware and Tupper.

If you have any questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at [gardella@buffalo.edu](mailto:gardella@buffalo.edu) or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at [dsutton@city-buffalo.com](mailto:dsutton@city-buffalo.com). We look forward to any input on the monthly tip sheet.

BEMC members are willing to attend any meetings to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets monthly, on the third Wednesday, 8:00 AM, 920 City Hall. Our next meeting is February 21, 2007.