

Ridgefield home gets top 'green'

A Ridgefield home is the first in town and in Fairfield County to be certified at the LEED for Homes Platinum tier by the United States Green Building Council.

Mike Taylor and Steve Zemo said they chose to renovate their home using green construction strategies because they wanted to do their part to reduce global warming and to move the country towards energy independence.

The Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program awards points in eight areas for green strategies used in the construction of a new home or complete renovation of an existing home.

To date, 11 Connecticut homes have been LEED certified, with just three certified at the top platinum tier.

The house is near downtown Ridgefield and includes additions to three sides of an existing home.

"High levels of insulation and a ground-source heat pump for heating and cooling dramatically reduce energy consumption," said builder Mike Trolle of BPC Green Builders. "Reusing the foundation and framed structure of the existing home significantly reduced the amount of new construction materials



Mr. Trolle said. "Water conservation strategies include an EPA water sense irrigation system, native planting design, limited lawn area, and rain barrels. Landscaping materials are both recycled and sourced locally." From left to right are the builder Mike Trolle, of BPC Green Builders; the landscape architects, Keith Beaver and Jane Didona of Didona Associates, and the owners, Mike Taylor and Steve Zemo.

required for the project."

Most of the wood used in the home, including much of the framing material, the siding and the flooring, was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, which promotes sustainable forestry practices.

"The environment-friendly landscape includes innovative storm water management measures with rain gardens, permeable pavers in the driveway, and water catchment systems for irrigation and a fountain,"

Mr. Trolle said. "Water conservation strategies include an EPA water sense irrigation system, native planting design, limited lawn area, and rain barrels. Landscaping materials are both recycled and sourced locally."

Besides Mr. Trolle, the design and construction team included landscape architects Jane Didona and Keith Beaver of Didona Associates, architect Jeff Mose of Mose Associates Architects and LEED certification provider Karla Donnelly of Steven Winter Associates.