

### **About this workshop**

EnergyTeachers.org seeks programs to help develop our annual Green Dollhouse Challenge (GDC). We will discuss building meter-scale dollhouses and technology curriculum; awarding without competition; logistics, including showing exemplary works at the New York State Fair; and, your expertise to inform planning.

Program meeting location:

204 Park Hall

### **Background**

The Green Dollhouse Challenge was originally a challenge for students and architects in San Mateo County, CA. Organizers from a county-wide sustainability group gathered a coalition of interested parties to create the project, organize the creation of the dollhouses, and host a culminating exhibit.

EnergyTeachers.org was inspired by a book published about that project, and now we are starting to build a coalition of New Yorkers to introduce a similar challenge here. Youth programs, educators, building professionals, designers, students, and enthusiastic supporters are invited to be a part of this project. EnergyTeachers.org, as an organization that has experience as a hub of information-sharing for energy-educators, is offering to be the hub of information-sharing and logistics for this project.

### **What a Green Dollhouse might be**

K-12 students, families, design/build students, and design/build professionals will build model play-houses to explore concepts and technologies related energy production, energy use, efficiency, materials, architecture, utility, aesthetics, appreciation of nature, renewable resources, true wealth, healthy living, clean air, and clean water.

A green dollhouse should be fun to play with, fun to talk about, and robust enough to withstand play and display.

### **What the challenge will be**

It will be up to the coalition to make decisions about the challenge. Naturally, members who join us later will respect the ideas of earlier members, but they will be welcome to comment constructively on any aspect of the project.

Currently, we see the challenge as a useful project for youth programs and technology courses, something to proudly display at the State Fair and local venues, and an annual opportunity for generations of students to learn and proudly exhibit understanding about the built environment. We should offer awards to encourage that learning and to cement that pride.

### **Awards**

Instead of ranking entries (first, second, third prizes), we'll use a level-based model for awards, like USGBC's LEED program. We propose entries to be awarded Excellent or Satisfactory in any of several categories, possibly also in classes of entries. Published guidelines should be so clear that entrants will know which awards to expect.

Possible categories include Aesthetics, Computer Aided Design, Craft, Documentation, Economics, Electrification, Fenestration, Hand Sketching, Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling, Innovation, Interior Design, Journal, Landscape, Lighting Design, Lighting Performance,

Photovoltaic Integration, Realism, Recycling, Renewable Energy, Research, Re-use, Robustness, and Waste Reduction.

Possible classes include K12 student, college student, hobbyist, and design/build professional. Jurors should be selected from architecture, building, academia, design, building performance professions, education, and journalism. They should be given the same clear guidelines for awards as the entrants, then their decisions should be respected.

### **Resources**

*Coordinating web site*

<http://energyteachers.org/greendollhousechallenge.php>

*Books (More info on each in our online bibliography)*

Hagopian, Emily, Green Dollhouse: Creating a Doll's Eye View of a Healthier World. 2005

Kettlewell, Caroline, Electric Dreams: One unlikely team of kids and the race to build the car of the future. 2004

Lovins, Amory B., Soft energy paths : toward a durable peace. 1977

Strong, Steven J., The solar electric house : a design manual for home-scale photovoltaic power systems. 1987

Tankersley, Jim, Surge of college students pursuing 'clean energy' careers. 2009-03-29

Wright, David, Natural solar architecture : a passive primer. 1978

*Original California project web site*

<http://www.greendollhouse.org/>

*Partners*

Currently all partnerships are tentative, but we have heard enthusiasm from NYS 4H and the NYS chapter of the US Green Building Council. We can likely count on support from architecture students.

We are seeking partners to include professionals in architecture, buildings, education, and journalism; financial sponsors; and pioneering educators and youth program leaders.

### **To be done**

We need your help to get this project going this year, and to create something worth doing every year. Every single aspect mentioned above needs attention from multiple people, so we need to find more partners to help spread the workload. If you read about how enjoyable and meaningful the California project was, you'll be inspired like us to move this project forward.

### **About EnergyTeachers.org**

EnergyTeachers.org offers help to teachers interested in teaching about energy production and use. Services include the web site, face-to-face meetings, newsletters, a lending library of books and equipment, reviews of lesson plans, and other tailored services. EnergyTeachers.org is an IRS 501(c)(3) public charity, incorporated in Massachusetts. We depend on small donations to maintain our network. Learn about the many different ways to be a part of this network:

<http://energyteachers.org/beapartofeto.php>