

AVRIM & VICKI TOPEL

AUTHORS

MEDIA RELEASE

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**USGBC Awards LEED Silver for Green Home;
Husband & Wife Team Author Green Homebuilding Book**

Learning about and building a green and sustainable home was a life changing event for green homeowners Avrim and Vicki Topel; so much so, the experience inspired the couple to help others understand the concepts behind green and sustainable homes by writing a book. Written for newcomers and professionals alike, **Green Beginnings: The Story of Building Our Green & Sustainable Home** the book uses the authors' story of learning about, planning and building a USGBC LEED Silver certified home to teach others about green homes and home building. The United States Green Building Council is the nation's undisputed preeminent authority addressing green and sustainable construction, and their LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) designation program cites criteria to achieve designated status. The book is the first of its' kind to present the subject matter both experientially and from a homeowner's perspective. Using non-technical, easy-to-understand, plain English, the authors identify and define green and sustainable concepts, materials and systems, and explain how these various components come together and relate to each other in today's green homes. Their unique style of storytelling, interjecting insightful lessons into the project's timeline, makes for an enjoyable read and meaningful learning experience.

Understanding how green building has entered the mainstream from a historical perspective, and defining precisely what green and sustainable building is using the

USGBC's LEED criteria offer valuable insight to the learning process. Topics include selecting architects, builders and other professionals, and the cite the benefits green homes avail homeowners, such as healthier environments, lowered energy and maintenance costs, increased comfort, and how green homes help the community and environment are explained in detail. Construction activities are illustrated with 100 sequenced color photographs, and a comprehensive glossary of green and sustainable terms and language provides the reader with a reference guide.

As empowering the reader with knowledge and understanding about green homes and homebuilding and simplifying the learning curve are the primary goals set by the authors,

Green Beginnings: The Story of How We Built Our Green & Sustainable Home

explains green homebuilding more clearly than any other book on the market to date.

Green Beginnings: The Video, featuring the professional team (builder, architect, sustainable engineer, landscape architect, and homeowners) touring and discussing the project in retrospect will be available later this year also at Amazon.com.

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Contact info Avrim & Vicki Topel, Kennett Square, PA 302-750-8563

Website www.greenbeginningsconsulting.com

Email leedsilver@yahoo.com