

## Building in Nature's Image Sustainable Building Training

**Course Overview.** A holistic and practical sustainable construction training that utilizes the tools of the US Green Building Council LEED for Homes Rating System, building science, and “Building in Nature's Image” principles, as the basis for building “ecoliteracy” of the built environment in design, construction, and related professionals and trades.

1. **Introduction to Sustainable Construction. 1.5 hours.** Is genuine Sustainability definable in the built environment? This section introduces the scale of the built environment relative to the Earth's living systems and their capacity to support human activities. Concepts briefly defined include Biomimicry, Ecosystem Services, Building Science, Living Systems, and Ecological Performance Standards, and why these things are fundamental elements of any definition of “green building.”
2. **Holistic Sustainable Construction Using the US Green Building Council LEED for Homes Rating System as a Guide. 4 hours.** This section holistically evaluates the various categories and credits of the US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes National Rating System (LEED for Homes). Kevin takes participants through the LEED for Homes checklist, following the eight (8) Categories of LEED for Homes. He also discusses the intent and underlying thinking of the LEED for Homes Committee, including topics such as the Home Size Adjuster, the Durability Management Process, and the job and process of being a Green Rater.

This section is practical and interactive in nature, focusing on constructability, the living systems approach to green building (to optimize costs while producing a higher performing project), and Kevin's experience as both builder of the first LEED for Homes certified project in New York State, a sustainable construction consultant, LEED for Homes Rater, and as a RESNET Green Rater. Where applicable, Kevin will describe how to use principles of Biomimicry, Ecological Performance Standards, and Building Science to value and restore ecosystem services. Throughout the presentation, Kevin will provide a comparison of credits that differ from and between the LEED Portfolio.

3. **Synthesis & Simulated LEED for Homes Integrated Design Meeting / Charrette— Building in Nature's Image While Following LEED for Homes Guidelines. 1.5 hours.** This final session will take participants through the Integrated Project Team Meeting and LEED Charrette process, as provided in the LEED for Homes Rating System Innovation and Design Process, ID 1: Integrated Project Planning, Prerequisite 1.1. Participation by attendees is invited and expected, just as in an actual LEED for Homes charrette.