

Go Green Early

Working from the historic re-use project known as the Mt. Washington Mill Business Center, Peter Garver is involved with an array of interesting real estate projects consistent with his passion on a daily basis. As founder of Sustainable Development Partnerships (www.SustainableDP.com), his primary role is to create environmentally and financially sustainable real estate solutions for projects ranging from commercial office buildings – to government facilities – to an Eastern Shore resort. Because of Peter's unique market niche – combined with impressive experience with local and regional projects -- offer interesting thoughts on how the green process should be pursued.

“The trend in construction these days is to build green and sustainable designs,” explained Joseph Rode, Executive Vice President of The Mullan Contracting Company. “Some real estate end-users and owners are extremely educated on how to accomplish this, while others need better training and education. Our goal is to assist companies that are interested in ways to accomplish sustainable construction using the latest and best practices.”

Garver explains that, for companies and organizations looking to create a green or



Peter Garver of Sustainable Development Partnerships

sustainable facilities environment, there are several guidelines that they should follow. “Most importantly, do not let the design process begin without establishing the project's green goals,” he said. “You don't want to be in a position where you are spending extra time and money with re-engineering and secondary designs. Also, choose an experienced team that can lead and teach you about the latest techniques and processes – the key players of which are an architect, mechanical engineer and construction contracting firm.”

“Establish your priorities,” Garver added. “For certain institutions and companies, going green can be driven by the money and energy savings that can be realized. For others, they may be interested in making a statement about their green initiatives or using sustainability as a branding element. Our solutions and recommendations are tailored to the most efficient way to meet these objectives.”

Sustainability features are being engineered in ground-up construction projects, according to Garver, but he is also seeing schools, retailers and public facility buildings incorporating green into retrofit and renovation projects. One thing he is certain of is that green is here to stay. “The state and national administrations are behind the green bandwagon and financial incentives are increasing for companies that embrace sustainability,” he said.

Prior to founding his company, Garver spent five years overseeing development activities and creating a culture of green building for Corporate Office Properties Trust as its Vice President of Development.

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