



## USGBC – St. Louis Regional Chapter

*In partnership with CSI*

### Passive Survivability: A New Design Criterion for Buildings

By Alex Wilson, president of BuildingGreen, Inc. and executive editor of *Environmental Building News* and the *GreenSpec® Directory*

Alex Wilson will make the case for a new design criterion for homes, apartment buildings, schools, and certain other public-use buildings: “passive survivability.” As he uses the term, passive survivability refers to the ability of buildings to maintain livable conditions in the event of extended power outages, or loss of heating fuel or water. This idea arose in a series of planning meetings on Gulf Coast Reconstruction that were organized by USGBC-STL Chapter members following Hurricane Katrina. In a world faced with increased storm intensity and flooding as a result of global warming, faced with the ongoing threat of terrorism that could cut power or natural gas supply to millions of Americans at any time, and faced with the prospect of fuel shortages as world oil production passes a peak and begins to drop in the coming years, passive survivability should be a high priority. The vulnerability to power outages was demonstrated most recently in the St. Louis region following November 30 – December 1 ice storm. After introducing the concept of passive survivability, Alex will review some of the design and construction strategies for achieving these design criteria in buildings.

A biologist by training, Alex Wilson has written about energy-efficient and environmentally responsible design and construction for more than 25 years. Prior to starting his own company in 1985 (now BuildingGreen, Inc.), he was executive director of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association. Alex is coauthor of the *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings and Green Development: Integrating Ecology and Real Estate*. His most recent book, *Your Green Home*, was published in late 2006. In late 2005 and 2006 he was involved in an effort to advance greening strategies for Gulf Coast reconstruction in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Alex served on the board of directors of the U.S. Green Building Council for five years, including two as Secretary.

#### **When**

Thursday, January 11, 2007

5:30 – 6:15 pm: Networking; 6:15 – 7:30 pm: Program

#### **Where**

Missouri Botanical Garden's Monsanto Center  
4500 Shaw Boulevard at Vandeventer (63110)  
*Overflow parking is available across Shaw from the building*

#### **Fee**

Free to USGBC-STL and CSI members and students  
\$20.00 for Non-members

#### **To register**

Email [usgbc-stl@mobot.org](mailto:usgbc-stl@mobot.org) or Call (314) 577-0854

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