

LOCAL GROUP HOME FOCUS OF NYU SEMINAR

A local architectural firm, the RCI Company, delivered a presentation at New York University on the green features of the Edgewood group home located in Pulaski Township. Frank Ross, the principal for RCI, conducted the presentation at NYU's campus in Manhattan on Friday, October 2nd. According to Ross, 25 people, primarily architects, attended the program.

The focus of Ross' presentation was on sustainable architecture. The Edgewood group home which is operated by the Human Services Center served as a case study for Ross.

In 2007, Edgewood was certified by the United States Green Building Council as a "green" building. Roger Smith, the Director of Community Services for HSC, noted that Edgewood is the only LEED certified building in Lawrence County and the only group home in the country that has received this recognition. (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.)

Ross stated that there were a number of green features of Edgewood that resulted in it being certified by the USGBC. "Our planning process involved thinking through not only the design of the facility, but also factors such as site selection, control of construction waste, and use of recycled materials," said Ross. He added that passive solar energy, a highly efficient heating and cooling system, and harvesting rainwater were additional green principles that were incorporated at Edgewood. "These factors and others served as a case study for my presentation at NYU," stated Ross.