

## **Innovator of the Year WINNER**

### **Kim Schaefer, TerraLogos**

Mary Medland, *The Daily Record*, Fall 2006



Kim atop her Prius

For a number of years, Kim Schaefer has been a tireless promoter of green building practices.

An architect and principal with TerraLogos, Schaefer along with architects Peter Doo, of Hord, Coplan & Macht, and David Pratt, of Lorax Partnerships, approached Baltimore City Councilman Jim Kraft in the summer of 2005 about the possibility of establishing a Green Building Task Force. The task force was charged with preparing a report for the Baltimore City Council on how Baltimore could incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards into new buildings. (LEED's Green Building Rating is a voluntary, national standard for developing sustainable buildings.)

"By rethinking the way we develop, design and construct buildings, we are able to help clients build spaces that more efficiently use and conserve our limited resources," says Schaefer. "By creating buildings and environments that work more efficiently, we can significantly reduce the environmental footprint we leave behind."

Put another way, cleaner air, reduced fossil fuel consumption, reduced water consumption and decreased energy costs are just a few of the benefits derived from the process of reconnecting with the natural world through better building practices.

In addition to improvements to the environment, the financial impact is not to be overlooked. Currently buildings consume about 40 percent of our national energy budget and 25 percent of our total water usage. Typically an average green home or building will reduce energy consumption by 30 percent compared to traditional designs, and water consumption will drop by at least 10 percent. Green buildings also have the advantage of supporting local economies and making us less dependent on fossil fuels.

In April 2006, Councilman Kraft presented the Green Building Task Force's report to the city council. The two recommendations that Kraft is promoting include establishing a Mayor's Office of Sustainability and requiring that city constructions over 10,000 square feet meet LEED Silver Rated Project standards.

"My goal is to foster change and to transform the way we design, build and live," says Schaefer. "Helping others realize their responsibility in helping create a sustainable living environment is an important part of what I do."