Setting the Precedence for Neighborhood Sustainability

Innovative, eco-friendly development is breathing new life into cities and towns in Western New York. Public initiatives are connecting with private development firms, sparking projects to revitalize communities in and around the city of Buffalo. These public-private partnerships are investing in a diverse range of opportunities for communities to significantly benefit both economically and environmentally. Industry experts are evolving traditional construction methods to remove existing barriers to implementing clean energy technology in urban areas. The objective is clear—bolster commercial and residential projects that will promote walkable neighborhoods to encourage economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Two Brothers, One Vision

Christopher and Matthew Siano, owners of HES Properties I—a community-minded real estate development company—made a commitment to reshape neighborhoods in Buffalo's West Side. In 2014, they purchased property, which sat vacant for 15 years, located at 363 Grant Street and transformed it into a 12,600 square foot mixed-use building. Although building plans were approved prior to the adoption of Buffalo’s Green Code, the Sianos decided to alter their plans to comply with the code. Dubbed the Siano building, the $2.3 million project was structured to contain both retail space and residential apartments and is heated and cooled entirely by geothermal technology.

Making it Happen

Buffalo Geothermal Heating (BGH)—an environmentally conscious company with a mission to provide high-quality GSHP systems to ensure clean energy efficiency—was contracted to install a closed-loop geothermal system large enough to support a building of this size. In some situations, installing a loopfield can present a challenge in dense urban areas due to size and space constraints. However, BGH had the insight to position the system directly beneath the building. This resolved spacing issues and set an example for GSHP system installation in highly populated areas.
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