

# Schmidt Named E4S Champion of Sustainability

Connect, Learn, Do Sustainability!

E4S is a diverse network of over 7000 leaders who are putting the principles of sustainability to work for their businesses and the region. E4S Network started in 2000 with the classic entrepreneurs and has attracted the entrepreneurial thinkers, the change agents from business, government, academic and non-profit sectors of our community.

What they share is a belief that sustainability principles are drivers for new business opportunities and tools to improve our quality of life. Together they build a sustainable regional economy in Northeast Ohio that will create prosperity and total community health.

Each year E4S names their champions of sustainability in various fields. This year, Lance Schmidt was named a champion in the Construction Field. Lance's nomination application stated the following:

**Lance Schmidt,**  
FG Ayers, Inc.

**HBA 2010**  
**President**



Members in  
the Community

Lance is one of the few builders that does not allow a dumpster at his building sites. Rather, he finds recycling uses for each and every item removed from a rehab and any waste associated with a new structure. He believes that EnergyStar does not go far enough. His building practices blow the EnergyStar rankings out of the water! One of his demo homes he is building with the HBA, is to show



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the public and those in the construction industry how building materials can be conserved, construction waste minimized and a home's energy-efficiency improved, all without significantly increasing the cost. Because students in the Akron Public Schools' Education in Action program are involved in the construction, it's also an opportunity to teach green building techniques to the next generation of tradespeople. To achieve those environmental benefits, the people on his site are using a number of construction methods that aren't standard in the industry. He sources the most green building components when building a new structure. He is one of the few builders in the Eastern US certified to build a 'Passive House' which is a net zero energy home from Germany and found throughout Europe. He is truly a pioneer in this area. He will be building the first passive house here in Northeast Ohio.

He and his wife Cheryl live a sustainable life. Lance doesn't just apply it to his work. They raise chickens, compost, can and preserve their vegetables. They use biofuel for their furnace. The list goes on and

on. He is an outstanding teacher and instructor for the trade as well as consumers when he holds multiple tours at his building sites. He also works with high school students and will be working with University of Akron students to assist in his building efforts and learn his unique green building practices.

Lance is a superb teacher and inspirational leader in sustainability for the home builders not only within his trade organization, the HBA, but throughout the US. He has several homes built that demonstrate his principles.

Lance is HBA of Portage & Summit Counties Vice President, and when he takes over as president next year, pledged to use his office to continue educating his fellow builders on green techniques. He hopes that the two organizations can collaborate on construction of a prototype net-zero house, one that is super efficient and has a small solar-energy system to produce electricity so its net energy consumption is zero.

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