



From Ian's Desk

Our glorious summer wanes, yet there is so much to be grateful for. Good families, good colleagues, good clients, good work.

Highlights of our ongoing projects include our NYSERDA outreach contracts for healthcare, higher education, and small commercial buildings; our work for NYPA in collaboration with the Syracuse Center of

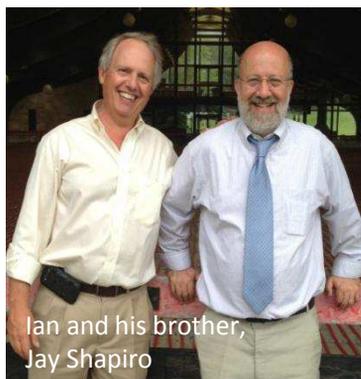
Excellence; our LEED work in New York City and elsewhere (including Mayor Bloomberg's MyMicroNY and the zero-energy Solar Two projects, in collaboration with the Community Environmental Center); farm energy audits; quality assurance for NYSERDA energy work in multifamily buildings and for benchmarking software; engineering design work; our Aeroseal duct sealing service; our renewable design and installation services; and our several ongoing research projects.

A few years ago, Taitem began collaboration with my brother Jay's construction management firm, [Jay Shapiro and Associates](#), of Far Hills, NJ. Typically, Taitem provides design review and/or commissioning services on JS&A's projects, often for the GSA, the federal government's construction arm.

Examples include two of the largest federal courthouses in the country, the d'Amato building on Long Island and the Moynihan building in Manhattan. We have worked on projects in NY, NJ, OH, and even a project in Puerto Rico. Aside from the great quality of JS&A's work, I am moved to find myself working with Jay. My mother Elsa repeatedly says how proud my late father Lou would be to see this collaboration, and she's right.

This Saturday, look for me, my wife Dalya, and the rest of Team Taitem as we ride our bicycles around Cayuga Lake. We're taking part in an annual event in support of the Southern Tier AIDS Program – yes, it's a charity

ride, and yes, we [welcome your donation](#). This event really captures the Taitem spirit – we love doing things as a team, we think bicycles are a simple solution to many problems, and we are always looking for ways to contribute to this community that has been so good to us.



Ian and his brother,
Jay Shapiro

Ian

in the field



Nick Kirk and Dave Tedeyan, finishing up a solar PV install at the Ecovillage in Ithaca, NY.



Evan Hallas measures duct leakage in a 20-story apartment building in NYC.



Courtney Royal and Umit Sirt on site with the first units for My Micro NYC

featured project

4.7kW System | Ithaca, NY



Taitem is busy designing and installing solar pv, solar thermal, and geothermal systems in the area. Our team recently completed this 4.7kW residential system lease.

While some property owners like the idea of purchasing their solar pv system, others prefer to lease. Taitem Renewables offers the option to own or lease your new system.

As a Sungevity partner, Taitem can install a leased solar PV system on residential properties for no money down. Homeowners can start saving money on utilities from the first month the system is installed.



For photos of the team in action and to see more of our system installs, visit our Facebook page.



Newsflash...

Taitem's team of partners grew on December 10, 2012 – congratulations to Beth Mielbrecht and Yossi Bronsnick on their new appointments.

Taitem received three certificates of recognition at the [Sustainable Tompkins](#) Signs of Sustainability Celebration for our energy reduction retrofits and expansion into renewable energy system installation.

Taitem sponsored the [Climate Smart & Climate Ready Conference](#) held April 18–21. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton spearheaded the idea with various events held in both Ithaca and Cortland to prepare for climate change.

Have you noticed our charging station?

We're so excited about our ChargePoint electric vehicle charging station and we're opening it up for all of Ithaca to use! For \$1 per hour users can charge their electric vehicle and park their car as they run errands around Ithaca. A percentage of the energy generated for the station comes from our solar array.



What we're reading and watching

- [Can New York State Power its Way to a Sustainable Future?](#), by Stacy Clark
- [90 by 50](#) – Urban Green Council's latest research report
- [HOT: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth](#), by Mark Hertsgaard
- [Race: The Power of an Illusion](#) – A PBS DVD Series
- Due out in February of next year, [Green Building Illustrated](#), a book co-authored by Ian Shapiro. More on this in our next newsletter.

Meet our new teammates

Melissa Kemp, our Project Development Manager for the recently expanded renewable energy division, will focus on project development and sales growth. The renewable energy division provides solar pv, solar thermal, and geothermal design and installation services.

Dee Gamble and Don Wells, our Senior Sustainability Consultants, will work as building outreach consultants for New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to inform owners and managers of healthcare and higher education facilities about NYSERDA programs and incentives for increasing energy efficiency and saving operating costs.



Melissa Kemp



Dee Gamble



Don Wells

Rockin' renewables

Taitem was a part of this year's [Rock the Plan](#) event at Stewart Park, a free concert to call for a renewable energy future for New York State. Musicians, artists, local food vendors, families, elected officials, and local businesses were at the park to raise awareness and support for the [2030 Plan](#), a vision for how New York State can switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy—water, wind, and solar (WWS) – by 2030.



Taitem was also part of the [Third Annual Seneca Lake Big Splash Sustainability Fair](#). The fair brought non-profit sustainability groups and local businesses together to focus on solution-based alternatives to hydrofracking and LPG storage.

featured project

adAPTNYC | NYC, NY



New York City held the adAPT NYC Competition in search of a micro-unit apartment building that would be developed into a new housing model for the “small household population.”

My Micro NY will create 55 new micro-units, 40 percent of which will be affordable compared to competitive market rents. The design optimizes space and maximizes the sense of openness. This will be the first multi-unit building in Manhattan developed using modular construction, with the modules prefabricated nearby at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Taitem Engineering will be doing the commissioning, LEED consulting, and energy modeling for this micro-unit apartment building. Congratulations to our Green Building Services team!



we're a certified B-corporation

What does that mean?

B Corp certification is to sustainable business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or USDA Organic certification is to milk. B Corps are certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.



Becoming a B-Corporation served two purposes. First, it was a way to show our community that we walk the walk, in terms of environmental and social responsibility. Second, the B-Corporation certification process provided us with a meaningful framework for self-examination, helping us to acknowledge areas for improvement and celebrate our strengths as we strive to fulfill our mission — because the Earth does matter.

Taitem seeks to create change not only through the work we do, but by how we do it. We are committed to providing high-quality engineering and energy consulting services that promote lower building energy use and to conduct energy research to advance sustainable energy practices and technologies.

Rebuilding the farm

After a devastating barn fire, Cayuga Pure Organics is working to rebuild a new bean/grain processing facility before the harvest starts in September. They are planning to use a room air conditioner with a [CoolBot controller](#) and our design department at Taitem will run some cooling load calculations to help them size the unit. Snug Planet also donated to the farm by helping them insulate a metal pole building. The building needs to be kept below 50F year round to prevent the growth of mealworms and other insects.

Learning and growing

- Lou Vogel presented at the [11th Annual NYS Green Building Conference](#) in Syracuse. Lou discussed the differences he has encountered while commissioning mechanical systems in Istanbul, Turkey for the [Varyap Meridan](#) project versus commissioning in the USA. Lou also co-led a discussion of HVAC alternatives for low energy homes, at the [Low Energy-Use Home Symposium](#) in Ithaca.
- Ian Shapiro is on the advisory board for SUNY Cortland's new masters program in sustainability. The [Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Systems](#) program offers a mix of fundamental and applied science with a focus on the real-world problems encountered by professionals in the fast-growing fields of renewable energy and building performance.



- Dan Cogan and Evan Hallas participated in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's three-day workshop to develop Job Task Analyses and Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for workers in the multifamily housing sector. Their insight helped define the skills required of QC inspectors for multifamily energy efficiency programs.

