

From Lou's Desk



It seems that a bit of an introduction is in order. I'm Lou Vogel, at your service. In January, I became President of Taitem, having been part of the firm for 12 years. I first met Ian when he called me to be interviewed by a company that was looking to introduce an advanced HVAC technology into the US. At that first meeting, Ian invited me to his wedding!

I studied engineering at Purdue University, then was successively a field engineer for an HVAC contractor, a solar sales/designer, a building engineer at the Corning Museum of Glass, a consulting engineer, first at another firm, then as my own firm Balanced Engineering, doing HVAC design.

Ever since college I have wanted to contribute to a more sustainable way of living — it never made sense to do it any other way. When I was working with solar and geothermal heat pumps in the early 1980s, it was with a company called Eternal Energy, which unfortunately was not presciently named. It didn't survive the withdrawal of the tax incentives and, like so many other solar companies, it withered away. The momentum was lost, and it pains me to think of how much further ahead we would be now if that support had not been withdrawn.

I finally got some solar PV on my roof a little more than a year ago (installed by Taitem Renewables, of course) and am very happy to report that we produced more energy than we consumed last year (at least electrically — we heat with wood and electric). I can tell you that it is a good feeling. Now on to zeroing out our propane and gasoline usage!

I want to assure everyone that Taitem will continue living up to its acronym, because the earth does matter, and we want to ensure that it will still be a bountiful place for our children's children, and generations after that.

in the field



Nate Goodell commissioning the PV array at Bushwick Inlet in Brooklyn, NY.



Lou Vogel checking out the old controls while retro-commissioning systems at 650 Fifth Avenue, NYC.



The Taitem Renewables truck is sporting some new graphics.

featured project

Lower East Side Girls Club New York City



Senior Sustainability Consultant, Courtney Royal has been working on the **LEED accreditation** for the Lower East Side Girls Club..

This new building features a juice bar, airy new classrooms, a planetarium, and a new garden with a fountain centerpiece. There is a recording studio housed in a **1958 Airstream trailer** that was hoisted into a large space on the second floor before the window installers arrived. This will serve as the home for an internet radio station.

Being part of the **High Performance Building partnership** with NYC's Community Environmental Center and BuildingWrX has given us the opportunity to work on amazing projects like this one.



What's in the pipeline?

- Taitem is working with, a **Syracuse architecture firm**, to fit out their new office space. They are aiming for **LEED Gold certification** and have asked Taitem to assist with the LEED certification effort. Taitem will provide support for the energy credits, some of the indoor air quality credits and **commissioning for the project**.
- [The renewables team](#) is within a couple weeks of starting one of its **largest residential projects to date, a 23.32kW** ground-mounted solar install in Sherburne, NY. Taitem's install crews are busy in the field and keeping safe in the cold weather. We're also gearing up for **summer events in Ithaca** where we will be promoting our services and informing the community about what it takes to **be a part of the solar solution**.
- Partner Beth Mielbrecht is excited to be playing a key role in the **New York Power Authority's EE-INC**, a public-private partnership of energy industry leaders to **improve energy efficiency in New York State buildings** and spur economic growth in emerging technologies. Beth is Program Manager for the Syracuse Center of Excellence's extensive team supporting EE-INC.



Ian's last day in the office as President was filled with streamers, balloons, hi-fives and confetti. Cheers to an amazing leader!



featured project

Bushwick Inlet, Brooklyn, NY



Taitem is providing [commissioning and LEED services](#) for the new **district headquarters of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation**. The building houses classrooms, offices, and a vehicle garage on 30 acres. It is designed to achieve high environmental performance standards.

Its green features include a geothermal heat pump system, daylighting controls, a heat-recovery system, several green envelope features, and a green roof with solar PV array.

The park includes a multipurpose sports field, playground, and public access to the waterfront. NYC Parks and Recreation **hopes to achieve** LEED Platinum certification.



Learning and growing

- **Dominick DeLucia and Javier E. Rosa, PE** attended a geothermal training in Rochester that focused on water- to-water heat pumps. During a hands-on training demonstration, Dominick and Javier learned a new technique for fusing pipes.
- Congratulations to our **renewables team** for passing their assessments and becoming SunPower Residential Advanced Design Certified Professionals.
- **Jim Holahan** is now a Certified Home Energy Professional (HEP). The four HEP certifications are the only ones that are both supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- **Rob Rosen, LEED AP**, has completed a course in HUD's new Green Physical Needs Assessment (GPNA) tool. Professionals use the GPNA tool to assess the impact of funding and develop management practices to implement capital towards the most effective energy efficiency solutions for public housing authorities.

A team of Taitem volunteers headed out to [Second Wind Cottages](#) in Newfield to help build one of six new cottages for homeless people.

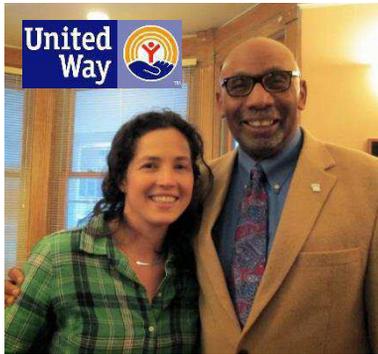


Invested in Tompkins County



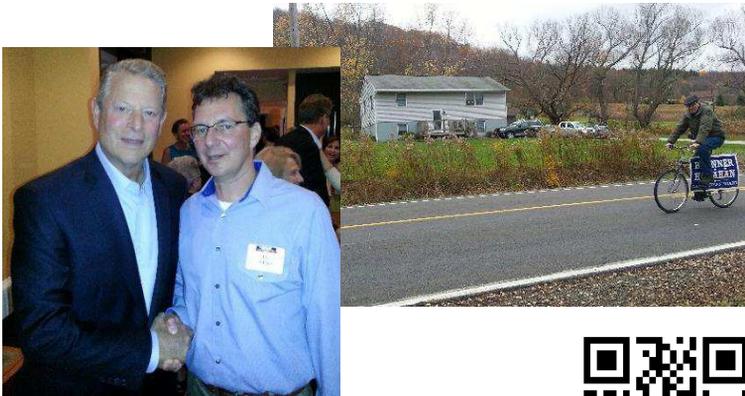
Team Taitem is all smiles at the **AIDS Ride For Life** finish line. You make it look easy!

Bill, Rob and Art sport their numbers at the **Cancer Resource Center 5k**.



Theresa caught up with United Way President, James Brown. Taitem reached its goals this year in support of **Tompkins County United Way**

Jim Holahan is getting the job done: He took his bike on the campaign trail this fall and was **elected to the Danby town board**. Jim also **caught up with Al Gore** at the campaign reunion party for the 1988 presidential campaign on which he worked.



featured project

700 Cascadilla St. | Ithaca, NY



Known to generations of Ithacans as "the Purity building," this project involves the complete **redevelopment of a local landmark, the Purity Ice Cream Company**.

Working with an architect and an owner with a **strong commitment to sustainability**, Taitem provided the complete range of engineering design services for this \$2.1 million project, which will include geothermal heat pumps and potentially also solar PV and solar thermal systems.

The new mixed-use building will also **feature an electric vehicle charging station**.

The team at Purity are in great spirits while they serve ice cream outside the shop. Check out the construction updates on **[their Facebook page](#)**.



Yossi Bronsnick, John Snyder, and the rest of the team on site.



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