

## The newest thing in sustainability is the 'PowerPod' modular

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Pembroke-based Epoch Homes is taking the meaning of "going green" to a whole new level.

President and CEO John Ela said while other construction companies are talking about initiatives to make their projects more environmentally friendly and sustainable, Epoch is actually doing it.

"Epoch is on the cutting edge," said Ela, who bought the company over two years ago and since then has made it a goal to stay on the forefront of green construction. "There's 1,000 different definitions for what that means and what I mean by green is whatever the builders want it to mean. We can build whatever shade of green you want."

And if it's very green you're after, Epoch is building the PowerPod.



It's just one way that the modular home company has put its mission to build sustainable homes throughout the Northeast into action. The PowerPod, designed by Powerhouse Enterprises and built and installed by Epoch Homes, is a pre-fabricated unit that can be as small as one room and as big as the customer wants it. More importantly, it's tricked out with so many carbon-footprint-friendly features that it's just about as green as a building can get.

The PowerPod features high efficiency lighting, an airtight exterior, solar windows, radiant floor heating and photovoltaic solar cells to name a few high-tech options. The first eight of these unique buildings were installed at The Yellow Barn Music School in Putney, Vt. as standalone classrooms and practice rooms throughout the rural facility.

But PowerPods are not limited to classroom use. Ela explained the buildings can be built for a guest house, a vacation home, a separate office or an in-law apartment. PowerPods are completely customizable and start around \$120 per square foot depending on the features and options the builder and homeowner choose to include.

The Yellow Barn Music School project was the perfect example of how Epoch works diligently to cater to the customer's needs, Ela said.

"There are limitless possibilities," he said. "We don't sell any cookie cutter plans."

For more information about PowerPods or Epoch homes, visit the company's Web site, [www.epochhomes.com](http://www.epochhomes.com).