

**Speaker: Bruce Becker - architect and owner of Hotel Marcel**  
**Sophia Marangoudakis**  
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Bruce Becker is a net-zero architect that owns and designed Hotel Marcel in New Haven, CT. His talk to my Global Studies class was informative for everyone but especially for me as my capstone in Global Studies is about sustainable options in hotels. Hotel Marcel is the first net-zero hotel in the United States meaning that it is the first hotel in the U.S. that does not produce fossil fuels. Mr. Becker discussed the specific tools to make his hotel net-zero by using solar panels, electric water pumps, and electric kitchen appliances. I also learned that concrete is super carbon-intensive and not very environmentally friendly – so it is best to stay away from it if you can. Mr. Becker said to make your hotel net-zero you have to use all-electric machinery rather than running on gas which produces fossil fuels. He made it sound very simple by using products that have a good return on investment rather than what the media says. The media displays that being net-zero and environmentally friendly has an expensive task where the products can have some issues whether that be how they are made, the quality, or their true effect on the environment. Our environment is so important that we all as a human race need to take care of it because our collective actions have an effect on global warming, our food, and the air we breathe. It is important to take steps as Mr. Becker has with his hotel to make a cleaner and more sustainable world.

I enjoyed Mr. Becker's talk and believe that he should come back in two years for the Global Studies students to listen and possibly coordinate a time for students to tour his hotel. I have many more questions about the small details in the hotel, the amount of waste the hotel produces, ensuring the hotel management company maintains net-zero practices, and way more! I have reached out to Mr. Becker and we are coordinating a time to meet. I think Mr. Becker is a phenomenal example of a human that had a vision, executed it, and has made a lot of change for the better of our world! I have no negative feedback or thoughts about it. I was fascinated.