

What Is Green Building?

Green building is a “Whole-Systems” approach for designing and constructing buildings that conserve energy, water, and material resources and are healthier, safer, and more comfortable.

In practical terms, green building includes:

- Using sun & wind to the building's advantage for natural heating, cooling, & day lighting
- Landscaping with native plants & using water efficiently
- Building quality, durable structures
- Insulating well & ventilating appropriately
- Incorporating salvaged, recycled, & sustainably harvested materials
- Maintaining healthy indoor air quality with appropriate building techniques & materials
- Using energy-efficient & water-saving appliances & fixtures
- Reducing & recycling construction waste

Learn More about Green Building

Ask An Expert is a free hotline providing customized responses to a variety of green building questions.



- Serves the general public, building professionals, local governments, & building suppliers in the 9-county bay area
- Provides trusted, unbiased, quality green building info
- Staffed by Build It Green

Submit a Green Building Question **online** (click on box above) or **call 1-888-40-GREEN**.



Build It Green www.builditgreen.org

- Continuing education & networking for public agencies, non-profits, & building professionals
- Listing of certified green architects & building contractors
- Materials Database: extensive listing of green products, materials, & technologies available in the Bay Area.
- Fact sheets, referrals, case studies, events listings, green building links, & in-depth info on green building materials & strategies
- Green Home Tours, workshops, & presentations



Build Green Now www.buildgreennow.org

- Green building resources for the general public, design & building professionals, & public agencies
- Green Building Guidelines for renovations & new construction that have been adopted by or serve as the basis for many green building programs in the San Francisco Bay Area



Sacramento Municipal Utility District www.smud.org

- Energy efficiency & renewable energy resources for residents and businesses
- Energy educational resources for customers, design professionals & researchers



United States Green Building Council (USGBC) www.usgbc.org

- Extensive collection of green building resources: market research, publications, presentations, & links to additional resources
- LEED® Rating System info: case studies, training, certification, workshops



Flex Your Power www.fypower.org

- Energy efficiency & conservation info for California residents, business, industry, local governments, schools, & agriculture
- Incentives/rebates, technical assistance, retailers, product guides, case studies & more



Energy Star www.energystar.gov

- Info on energy efficient buildings, appliances & equipment
- ENERGY STAR appliances & building strategies often qualify for rebates



DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Building Technologies Program www.eere.energy.gov/buildings

- Support for R&D activities to improve the energy efficiency of buildings
- Tools, guidelines, training, & access to technical & financial resources



Water Wiser www.waterwiser.org

- News, info, research results, discussion forums, references, calendar of events, & searchable databases
- Targeted to water conservation professionals, but freely accessible to the general public
- Links to Water Saver Home (www.h2ouse.net), a virtual encyclopedia of water saving tips for indoor & outdoor uses



EPA Water Efficiency Program www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency

- Extensive info & resources on how to use water more efficiently
- Applicable to all water users from homeowners to governments

EPA Indoor Air Quality www.epa.gov/iaq

- Extensive info & resources on indoor air quality
- IAQ INFO: hotline to help locate the appropriate info, 800-438-4318



Health House www.healthhouse.org

- For Consumers: info on IAQ concerns & tip sheets to help identify & reduce pollutants in the home
- For Builders: guidelines & Registered House Builder training for building homes with better IAQ