

City of Huntington Beach

Planning Department

Green Building Tips

What is a “green building”?

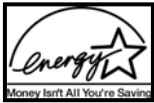
A structure that is designed, renovated, re-used or operated in a manner that enhances resource efficiency is considered a sustainable, or “green building”. These structures reduce water consumption, improve energy efficiency and lessen a building’s overall environmental impact. Both homeowners and builders can make both small and large types of improvements to property, and below are helpful tips for reducing energy costs, improving energy performance, and reducing construction waste.



For Homeowners



- ✦ **Install High Performance Windows.** Energy-efficient windows employ advanced technologies, such as protective coatings and improved frame assemblies, to help keep heat in during winter and out during summer. These windows also block damaging ultraviolet sunlight that can discolor carpets and furnishings.



- ✦ **Install ENERGY STAR appliances/bulbs.** ENERGY STAR qualified products like lighting fixtures, compact fluorescent bulbs, ventilation fans, and appliances, such as refrigerators, dish washers, and washing machines work as well or better than standard appliances, but use less energy.



- ✦ **Install Effective Insulation.** Properly installed, climate-appropriate insulation in floors, walls, and attics ensures even temperatures throughout the house, less energy consumption, and increased comfort.



- ✦ **Install Effecting Heating and Cooling Systems.** In addition to using less energy to operate, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems can be quieter, reduce indoor humidity, and improve the comfort of the home.



- ✦ **Ensure Tight Construction and Ducts.** Sealing holes and cracks in the home’s “envelope” and in duct systems helps reduce drafts, moisture, dust, pollen, and noise. A tightly sealed home improves comfort and indoor air quality while reducing utility bills.



- ✦ **Landscape with low-drip irrigation systems, drought tolerant landscaping and Native California Plants.**



- ✦ **Install A Solar Photovoltaic System.** A good aim is to install a residential photovoltaic system that will, at peak production, provide one-half to three-fourths of your household’s energy demand; typically between 1kW and 3kW.



For Building Professionals



- ✦ Install tankless water heating systems, low-flush toilets and flow-reducing water faucets.



- ✦ **Protect Native Soils and Mature Trees.** Protection of existing mature landscape features helps prevent soil erosion, maintains sources of natural cooling, diverts waste from landfills, preserves nature and adds value to the community.



- ✦ **Deconstruct Rather than Demolish.** Deconstruction of existing buildings is a good way to salvage quality building products that have not yet reached the end of their usable life, even if the building or part of it has. Salvaged materials are often less expensive to purchase than new materials, and may be of higher quality, especially salvaged wood.



- ✦ **Recycle Job Site Construction Waste.** 21% of the statewide waste stream is construction/demolition debris, but in newer communities C&D waste sent to landfills can be as high as 50%. Generally wood, drywall, metal, concrete, dirt and cardboard, and it can also include plant debris (green waste). Much of this material can be reused or recycled.



- ✦ **Roofing products should be energy efficient, light colored and reflective.** ENERGY STAR qualified roof products reflect more of the sun's rays, decreasing the amount of heat transferred to the building, thereby reducing air conditioning needs.



- ✦ **Use Recycled Aggregate for Walkway, Driveway and Roadway Base.** Virgin aggregate comes from sources such as riverbeds and quarries where mining activities may disturb the environment. Mainly concrete and asphalt pavement, recycled concrete material crushed to 3/4-inch meets the California Department of Transportation's (CalTrans) specification for Class 2 Aggregate Base.

Useful Websites

- Energy Star Program www.energystar.gov
- State Integrated Waste Management Green Building <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/GreenBuilding/>
- Global Green www.globalgreen.org
- Build It Green www.builditgreen.org