

## 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, & daylighting
- 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](http://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](http://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



**United States Green Building Council (USGBC)** [www.usgbc.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.h2ouse.net)), a virtual encyclopedia of water saving tips for indoor & outdoor uses



**EPA Water Efficiency Program** [www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency](http://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](http://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](http://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