

First Step to Green Building

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There are thousands of people sitting in a home or business that are thinking about remodeling or moving. The main reason other than space that Americans relocate, is energy efficiency. Everyone realizes that saving our Natural Resources has to be a priority for all. "Green Building" is a critical step for all Developers and Builders of today's world, and they cater to the end users of their products - homes and commercial buildings.

What if you are not building new, or moving to a new Green Building? You may have a green remodeling project in your future. But where to start is the next question you might have. We have complied articles to show you where to start, who you should ask for help, the big questions to ask your contractors or builder, and a checklist of green building guidelines.

All Remodel or New Building "Green" projects have the same principals that will apply for moving to Green Energy Efficiency. In the "Green Process" you will not be wasting money, but designing a plan that will prioritize your home or buildings needs, then tackle those first. We chose the most common below.

The most common symptom home owners face is uneven heating and cooling systems with high energy costs. Your first step is to call your local utilities company and ask for the printout of your last year's costs at that address. If less, that is fine, you have somewhere to start. Once you evaluate your costs, set an appointment for them to inspect your home for a Comprehensive Home-Performance Evaluation. These are, in most cases, free to the customer. This plan will show you how to maximize the client's return on investment in dollars spent on the project plus significantly lower energy bills.

As a Developer, Builder, or Contractor, the same principles apply. Looking at it from an Owner's angle helps you to address the home or building owners' needs in a practical, cost-effective manner. You will learn how to make a Sustainable Green Space once you learn to do a detailed home performance inspection to evaluate the home as a system, not just a part.

Here are the topics you would concentrate on first. Insulation, Air Infiltration, Duct Leakage, Heating/Cooling load on existing Systems, any Moisture issues, Water Heating, Lighting issues, Efficiency in Appliances, and general durability to reduce Waste.

Addressing these issues, your results will be comfortable rooms, healthy air, less wasted energy, and financial savings. To the Builder it means word of mouth, and repeat business for being a great Green Builder. For the Developer, it means finding great Builders who work with them from the ground up, to maximize natural resources.

For a Remodel Green project, you would find the Contractors who would begin with building fundamentals such as sealing and weatherization, duct system redesign and replacement or repair, additional attic insulation, and lighting efficiency restructure. By first reducing the home's energy load, you significantly reduced the size of major system improvements, including a new air handlers and air filtration system. You would then look to a new high-efficiency water heater and the home's primary heat source for space heating. You could then begin researching the best recirculation pump for water conservation.

See our article on Smart Buildings, to show more about Sustainable and Integrated Systems that run the entire home or building. Home or Building owner's as well as Developers and Builders, can utilize energy modeling software to determine the amount and balance of airflow to each room, and then design ductwork to ensure the system is balanced year round. It takes out the guesswork, and meets your priorities and goals.

Please see our extensive List of Green Builders and Developers.