

WHAT IS GREEN BUILDING?

- Green building encompasses planning, design, construction, operations and ultimately end-of-life recycling or renewal of structures.
- Green building pursues solutions that represent a healthy dynamic balance between environmental, social and economic benefits.
- Sustainability and “green” often are used interchangeably.

WHY IS GREEN BUILDING NECESSARY?

- Buildings and communities, including the resources to create them and the energy, water and materials needed to operate them have a significant effect on the environment and human health.
- By building green we can reduce that environmental damage and in many cases even enhance the health of the environment and the people who use them.
- By reducing energy usage you save money!

The **Bordentown City Environmental Commission** (BCEC) is comprised of volunteers who are residents of Bordentown City and are appointed by the Mayor. The BCEC advises local officials and the Planning Board regarding environmental issues and acts as a watchdog for environmental problems and opportunities. We inform elected officials and the public, serve on committees, research issues, develop educational programs, and advocate for sound environmental policies. The BCEC also is able to form subcommittees run by non-appointed volunteers to pursue issues of local importance. Presently, one committee, the Green Team, facilitates the City’s participation in the Sustainable Jersey program. Local issues include preservation of open space, promoting walking and bicycling trails and the RiverLINE, protection of wetlands and water quality, recycling and energy conservation, and environmental education.

GREEN BUILDING INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS



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WAYS YOU CAN GO GREEN

RESOURCES

CONTROL AIR LEAKAGE

To save energy, increase comfort and avoid moisture migrations into building.

- By conducting a blower door test you will find out exactly where your home is leaking air. You would have to hire someone to come to your home to conduct this test.
- Ways to find leaks on your own are by using incense and watch for the smoke to blow around windows, doors and ducts.

How to control air leakage

- Make sure ducts are properly sealed and insulated to minimize loss of heat and cool air.
- Insulation in walls, fiberglass batting or blown insulation- cellulose or fiber glass.
- Insulating caulk around windows and doors.
- Liquid foam can be sprayed to fill in irregular cracks, ex: around stone/brick chimneys.
- Use of vapor barrier on exterior of house.
- When buying insulation materials look for the **R-value**. **The higher the number the better the insulating.**

WINDOWS & DOORS

Windows- single pane, double pane and triple pane. Triple panes provide the highest level of insulation.

- Check the **U-factor** (thermal transmittance). As U-factor decrease heat flow decreases and are more energy efficient.

Doors- solid wood, insulated steel or fiberglass.

- Check for a **higher R-value and lower U-factor** when purchasing new doors.
- Make sure doors have a proper amount of weather stripping to control air leakage.

OTHER WAYS TO GREEN YOUR HOME

- Look for energy star appliances
- Replace air filters in forced air systems.
- Install programmable thermostats.
- Use CFL or LED light bulbs
- Whole house ventilation fans
- Tankless water heaters
- Exterior landscaping that shades the house in the summer and allows sunlight through in the winter.



EnergyStar Product Ratings
(electricity use)
www.energystar.gov



Green Home Guide
greenhomeguide.com



New Jersey Clean Energy Program
njcleanenergy.com/



New Jersey Green Building Manual from Rutgers
greenmanual.rutgers.edu



New Jersey Weatherization Assistance Program
nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/wap.html



US Green Building Council & LEED information
www.usgbc.org



WaterSense Product Ratings
(water use)
www.epa.gov/watersense