

# GREEN BUILDING INTRODUCTION: *BUILTGREEN*

DOVETAIL PARTNERS, INC.

2008



## What is Built Green?

Built Green is a non-profit, residential building program of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, developed in partnership with King County, Snohomish County, and other agencies in Washington State.<sup>1</sup>

The program focuses on environmentally sustainable home construction and education. The program's mission is to promote environmentally friendly home building methods and practices, and to enhance communities through leadership in sustainable development.

## About Built Green

Built Green was established to foster development of high quality and affordable homes for families in the Pacific Northwest. Built Green focuses on remodeling and new home construction under four different rating systems. These systems include:

- homebuilders (single family homes: custom or production),
- remodelers (additions or renovations of existing homes),
- multifamily (apartments, condominiums), and
- communities or developments.

## Built Green Assessments

The Built Green program is based on a framework of “green” features and building practices within four categories, each of which recommends specific building practices for constructing an environmentally durable home.

- *Energy efficiency* can be achieved through advanced framing techniques, extra insulation, efficient water heaters, energy resourceful household appliances, and air sealing.
- *Indoor air quality* is improved by use of appropriate floor coverings, smart paint selections, and effective ventilation systems.
- *Conserving natural resources* involves using plastic/recycled lumber, fiber cement siding, brick, and recycling scrap materials wherever possible during construction.
- *Water resource* conservation can be enhanced through incorporation of pervious paving systems, rainwater collection, and low impact development.

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<sup>1</sup> Built Green of Washington should not be confused with Built Green of Colorado.

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Built Green certification is based on adherence to the relevant criteria checklist. After construction is completed, builders send a signed copy of the checklist to the Master Builders Association. A system of 1 to 5 stars is used to determine the rating the builder has achieved. A builder seeking to achieve a 4 or 5 star rating must engage a certified third party to verify the checklist.

The Built Green website has a list of case studies that illustrate various projects that have achieved different star ratings.

## Uses

Homes certified under the Built Green program standards incorporate sustainable features that demonstrate a commitment to environmental awareness and practice. The practices may result in lower overall energy use that saves the owner money on utility bills. The responsible use of construction resources and materials promote forest conservation. A goal of the program is for ethical construction to increase home value and for the alleviation of gas consumption and pollution through use of local materials and reduced transportation miles.

## For more information:

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*This overview was compiled by Dovetail Partners as part of a series of Green Building Introductions. For the most current and complete information about BuiltGreen, please contact their office and visit their website.*