

# GREEN BUILDING INTRODUCTION: *GREEN BUILT HOME*

DOVETAIL PARTNERS, INC.

2008



## What is Green Built Home?

Green Built Home is a green building program founded in 1999 by the Wisconsin Environmental Initiative in partnership with the Madison Area Builders Association. As the first green initiative in the Midwest, the program administers sustainable building activities throughout Wisconsin. Non-profit affordable housing providers can enroll in the program and have their projects certified at no cost.

## About Green Built Home

Green Built Home promotes awareness of environmental issues and the benefits of green building. The program encourages energy efficiency, resource conservation and improved indoor air quality to reduce a home's ecological footprint and to support structural safety and durability. The program offers guidance for projects both large and small, including new home construction and landscaping.

## Green Built Home Assessments

The Green Built Home program uses a series of basic requirements to assess the environmental attributes of home construction. Checklists address specific features that every project must meet, along with additional areas requiring collaboration between homeowners and builders, such as erosion control, stormwater management, materials selection, water and energy conservation, indoor air quality and waste reduction. The program's intent is to provide healthier, safer, and more comfortable and durable homes.

Criteria under each issue area are assigned point values with a minimum number of points needed to achieve certification. The minimum number of points varies by program.

Project checklists are available for:

- New homes
- New home and product directory
- Remodeling
- Waterfront property
- Multifamily

In addition to meeting a number of required criteria, all new homes must meet a minimum of 60 additional project points. Remodeling projects must earn between 10-60 points, depending on the extent of the renovation.

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Green Built Home offers “Green-it-Yourself” home remodeling and improvement projects for homeowners as well as resources for selecting a contractor or developer for assistance.

Additionally, the program website has a new certification program for Green Built Home retail product approval with a link to certified household and construction products. Advice is available through the website for “building green on a budget.”

## Uses

Green Built Home offers several benefits for homeowners using the program, homebuilders and the environment. The program provides:

- Certification standards
- Independent, neutral third party assessment
- Product and material specification and procurement assistance
- Help in establishing priorities for going green
- Collaboration and consensus building with government, business, and citizen groups.
- Access to the GBH network of contractors and product suppliers

## 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 Green Built Home, please contact their office and visit their website.*