

# GREEN BUILDING INTRODUCTION:

## *BUILT GREEN*

DOVETAIL PARTNERS, INC.

2017



### 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.

The program focuses on environmentally sustainable home construction and education. Built Green's mission is to promote environmentally friendly home building methods and practices, and to enhance communities through leadership in sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>

### 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 five categories, each of which recommends specific building practices for constructing an environmentally durable home.

Built Green certification is based on adherence to the criteria checklist. After construction is completed, builders send a signed copy of the checklist to the Master Builders Association. A Star rating from 3-, 4-, 5- or Emerald is delegated to each project. Every star level requires verification by a third party.

The Built Green website has a list of case studies that illustrate various projects that have achieved different star ratings. Built Green checklists are offered here: <http://www.builtgreen.net/index.cfm?Certify-Projects/Get-Checklists>.

Features in the Built Green checklist include:

- *Green codes*: these focus on energy, air quality, water efficiency, and stormwater management standards. Built Green recognizes meeting these standards..

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

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- *Site and water*: this includes practices to conserve water, protect natural features, prevent erosion, promote and to otherwise improve water quality.
- *Energy efficiency*: focusing on reducing heat loss through a combination of design elements and building practices, thereby making the home more affordable to operate.
- *Indoor air quality*: reducing indoor pollutants such as installing low toxic finishes.
- *Material Selection*: using recycled content products, using up-to-date waste minimizing practices, and encouraging builders to use locally manufactured products.

## 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. Special thanks to research intern Ethan Howard.*

*For the most current and complete information about BuiltGreen, please contact their office and visit their website.*