

Green Building: Green Building Home Design - "Sustainable Home Building"

Sustainable design is the buzzword today along with green building. There is a difference between the two. While green building means resource efficient and environmentally conscious, sustainable design is based on three areas; energy conservation, indoor air quality, and resource conservation. Viewed as new-age in construction circles, sustainable design looks at homes holistically, and not just a bunch of unrelated systems thrown together. Natural forms of energy, such as wind, solar, and geo-thermal if available on-site are maximized.

A new rating system for sustainable building has been rolled out. LEED or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Homes was begun in mid-2005 by the U.S. Green Building Council on a trial basis in 12 locations across the country. It is a rating system like Energy Star Homes program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. When the pilot program is completed in 2007 a updated rating system will be issued.

Homeowners can expect sustainable homes to be at the minimum more energy efficient and offer occupants better air quality. Home building product manufactures are making many more low impact, but high performance products. To learn more about sustainable home building contact National Association of Home Builders and the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council.

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