

Green Building



As you review **The Guide**® for pricing information, please look for the leaf that designates green, or sustainable, building materials and systems-in-place costs. The leaf also designates which subcontractors & suppliers have green building experience. This information is provided to help the construction industry continue to improve the buildings in which we live and work.

Green Building; What's That?

Green building, or sustainable building, can be defined as: *Designing, constructing and operating buildings and landscapes to incorporate energy efficiency, water conservation, waste minimization, pollution prevention, resource-efficient materials, and indoor environmental quality in all phases of a building's life.*

Builders Go Green

The construction industry itself has been a main driver of the effort to create environmentally-friendly building methods. Builders and suppliers rely on the manufacturing industry for products that, in the recent past, no one knew could be toxic to our water, air or inside buildings. When we've experienced shortages in the country's primary energy supplies the building industry has responded with better, more efficient envelopes and systems that optimize energy use. We also know the relationship of good land development practices to the health of our aquatic wildlife. Now that we have a better understanding of the effects of toxins in our environment, inefficient energy consumption and poor soil treatment, the construction industry has stepped up to change the face of building by adopting new greener guidelines for construction.

This shift is reflected in many new products and materials, different methods of building and new technologies. To help the industry stay current, **The Guide**® is offering a special designation ♣ on pricing for products that meet green building criteria to help you better estimate the cost of your projects in this progressive building arena. The directory will also use the leaf designation to indicate which subcontractors & suppliers have green building experience. This is the first issue to include green information. Subsequent issues will contain additional green pricing as well as subcontractor & supplier designations.

Green Building Rating Programs

Many of these green-designated products can be used to help your project achieve points on different green building rating systems, all of which were created in cooperation with builders. The rating systems are designed to help measure the environmental performance of a building and its site. In the Pacific Northwest, four major programs are available for both commercial and residential projects. Developers, owners, builders and suppliers also use these programs to market their projects and make a positive impression on consumers who seek homes or office spaces that are environmentally friendly.

Commercial Sector

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) provides rating systems for commercial projects, multi-family construction over four stories. Twelve percent of all LEED buildings in the United States are in the Pacific Northwest. www.usgbc.org/leed

Residential Sector

Built Green™ provides rating systems for single and multi-family residential, remodeling projects and neighborhood developments in Washington State. More than ten thousand homes have been certified to this program since 2000. www.builtgreenwashington.org
LEED™ for Homes is a new rating system for certifying single family residential projects nationally. www.usgbc.org/leed
Earth Advantage offers certifications on new homes and remodels in Oregon. www.earthadvantage.org
Northwest Energy Star homes are independently verified to be 15 percent more energy efficient than state or local energy codes in the Northwest. www.northwestenergystar.com/



Powered by King County

Green building information was provided to **The Guide**® by the King County Green Tools program, offering resources to builders and residents on green building. More information at www.greentools.us