

What is a Green Building?

Green buildings are those built using innovative building techniques to minimize or eliminate adverse impacts on the environment.

All buildings, including residential, commercial and industrial can be green buildings.



Sustainable or “green” building practices can reduce the tremendous impact that building design, construction and maintenance has on both people and nature.

Sustainable building practices go beyond energy and water conservation to incorporate environmentally sensitive site planning, resource efficient building materials and superior indoor environmental quality.

Benefits

- ☛ Reduced environmental impact
- ☛ Enhanced occupant health and productivity
- ☛ Reduced energy consumption
- ☛ Lower electric and water utility costs
- ☛ Long-term economic returns

Additional Information:

County of San Diego
Planning & Development Services
Building Division
www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/greenbuildings.html
5510 Overland Ave., Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92123
(888) 336-7553
(858) 565-5920

Energy Links

U. S. Green Building Council
www.usgbc.org

CalRecycle - Green Building Design & Construction
www.ciwmb.ca.gov/GreenBuilding

San Diego Gas & Electric, Energy Efficiency
sdge.com/residential
sdge.com/business

U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Building Technologies Program
www.eere.energy.gov/topics/homes.html
www.eere.energy.gov/topics/buildings.html

Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC)
www.sbicouncil.org/home/index.html



LUEG
Land Use & Environment Group

[HTTP://WWW.SDCPDS.ORG](http://www.sdcpds.org)

PDS 273 REV.: 09/24/2012

BUILD GREEN



County of San Diego Green Building Incentive Program

*A Voluntary Program To
Promote Energy And Resource
Efficient Building Design*

Program Overview

The County of San Diego Green Building Incentive Program is designed to promote energy efficiency, use of resource efficient construction materials, and water conservation in new and remodeled residential and commercial buildings. Eligible participants can benefit from various program incentives that, along with the potential long-term savings, make building green a viable alternative to traditional construction.

Key Elements

- 🌱 Natural resource conservation
- 🌱 Water conservation
- 🌱 Energy efficiency



Design Considerations

- 🌱 Maximizing use of natural sources of heat, cooling, ventilation & light
- 🌱 Selecting appropriate site
- 🌱 Utilizing landscaping such as xeriscaping that minimizes run-off and conserves water
- 🌱 Designing for durability

Purpose

By anticipating future resource needs and conserving now, we can create safe, livable communities and protect the environment for our children and generations to come.



Eligibility

To qualify for the program, the project must comply with one of the conservation measures listed below:

1. **Natural Resource Conservation**

- **Recycled content materials.** Do one of the following:
 - a) Show that 20% or more of the primary materials being used in the building system contain 20% or more post-consumer recycled content. Any reused materials will be found to satisfy the 20% post-consumer recycled content requirement; or,
 - b) Show that at least one primary building material (such as roofing) is 50% or more post-consumer recycled content.
- **Straw Bale Construction.** New buildings using baled straw from harvested grain for the construction of the exterior walls will qualify for the incentives.

2. **Water Conservation**

- **Graywater Systems.** The installation of a graywater system will qualify for the incentives. Graywater is the wastewater produced from bathtubs, showers, and clothes washers. In order to conserve water, it can be used for irrigation through subsurface distribution systems. A permit is required from the Department of Environmental Health for the graywater system. (CPC Title 24, Part 5, California Administrative Code, Appendix G)

3. **Energy Efficiency**

- **Energy Use Below CEC Standards.** Residential projects that exceed the minimum Title 24 standards by 15% and commercial projects that exceed the standards by 25% qualify for the Green Building Incentive Program. The applicant must demonstrate to the Building Division that the project exceeds the Title 24 minimum standards by submitting compliance documentation done on a computer program approved by the California Energy Commission.

Incentives

- ☑ Reduced plan check turnaround time (saves approximately 7-10 days on project timeline)



- ☑ 7.5% Reduction in plan check and building permit fees
- ☑ No fees for the building permit and plan check of residential photovoltaic systems

Other (Non-County) Incentive Programs

San Diego Gas & Electric
sdge.com/rebates-your-home
sdge.com/rebates-finder/business

California Center for Sustainable Energy
energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs