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

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

BUILD GREEN

County of San Diego
Green Building Incentive Program

A Voluntary Program To Promote Energy And Resource Efficient Building Design

HTTP://WWW.SDCPDS.ORG

PDS 273 REV.: 09/24/2012
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