

Why We Encourage Green Building

According to the EPA, **homes in the United States account for:**

- 39 percent of total energy use
- 12 percent of the total water consumption
- 68 percent of total electricity consumption
- 38 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions

How Growth & Going Green Go Together

As America's population continues to grow, our reliance on the expansion of housing is persistent and the impact of conventional building on the environment is fast becoming a real issue.

But, luckily, there are ways to improve our processes to reduce the negative impacts on our land and our resources through green building.

The overall goal of green building is to maximize and ensure positive economical, social and environmental impact of construction on our community and our world.

It Starts With a Plan

The site planning phase of residential construction can have an enormous influence on the environment and the remainder of the project's footprint. For example, the orientation of the home for potential solar installation, and the strategic design to optimize natural light can play a big role in cost and energy consumption throughout the year.

Other Considerations for Building Green:

1. By developing homes on already established lots, a practice known as 'urban in-fill', precious ridge lines and the rich biodiversity of our environment can be better protected. This not only minimizes the development of open space, but also promotes a walkable or bikeable lifestyle which is proven to reduce greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
2. Proximity to an existing infrastructure and transportation resources are important considerations to be made by homeowners in an attempt to maximize sustainability of the project.
3. Use of sustainable materials that are sourced (when possible) from local vendors can help lessen transportation time, which benefits both the global environment and the local economy.
4. Utilizing materials that are salvaged, recycled, designed to conserve resources, and produce little waste are ideal candidates for residential green home construction. *For example, Beach Hensley invests in locally harvested and milled flooring, incorporating Western North Carolina lumber and durable siding material made of renewable resources into our homes.*

5. Incorporating highly-insulated building envelopes and EnergyStar-rated windows and doors can help insulate one's home from the elements and dramatically reduce energy loads. Installing energy recovery ventilation systems helps contribute to indoor air quality that can benefit the overall health, safety and productivity of its occupants.
6. To save water, fixtures, dual flush toilets, and permanent stormwater controls that are specifically designed for conservation can be utilized, saving consumers up to 30% on their annual water bill.
7. High-efficiency heat pumps are a great alternative to conventional heating and cooling methods because they work to *transfer* heat from your home to outside air versus *generating* heat. According to the Department of Energy, heat pumps can save up to 75% on energy costs compared to electric resistance methods of heating, such as furnaces and baseboard heaters.

At Beach Hensley Homes, we are 100% dedicated to green building; our systematic and full-service approach to a green lifestyle is a testament to our unwavering dedication to the enrichment of the social, economical, and environmental vitality of our community.

Please give us a call so we can discuss how you can live a sustainable lifestyle in one of our beautifully-crafted [fixed](#) or [custom](#) priced homes at (828) 782-3342.