

## How Close Are You to Being Certified Green ?

Green building is incorporating environmental considerations and resource efficiency into every step of the home building and land development processes to minimize environmental impact. It means making intentional decisions that affect the following areas of the design and construction process:

- ◆ Site design
- ◆ Energy efficiency
- ◆ Water conservation
- ◆ Resource conservation
- ◆ Indoor environmental quality
- ◆ Home owner education

Most home builders are already incorporating elements of green building into their current practices. The result is homes that can perform more efficiently, and have a gentler impact on the environment.

Green Building is a practical response to a variety of issues that affect all of us - including increasing energy prices, waning water resources, and changing weather patterns.

As new technologies are developed and new materials tested, home builders can – and will – do more, because that makes good business sense.

So, how close are you to building green?

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## GOING GREEN ?

*Answering the basic questions.*



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## HBAJC Green Committee

Green Building is generating a lot of well-deserved excitement, and the HBAJC shares that enthusiasm. It is our goal to be your primary source for information, education and networking on all green building practices.

While the process of incorporating environmental considerations into the home building process is not new, today's green building activity is expanding quickly, and as with any emerging field the potential exists for mistakes to be made and the unexpected will occur.

Take proactive steps to reduce the risk that your green building project could become a major headache for you and your customer.



Committee:

Co Chair - Elliot Kanarek 625-4609

Co Chair - Sean Holmes 669-3974

Members - Tom Jancuska

Brandy Whitley

## Builder Certification

You do not need to be certified green to build a green home; however, it would benefit you to take the classes available through NCHBA and/or NAHB to make sure you are educated on the correct practices and procedures.

The NCBI offers classes twice a year. Once in the Spring in Raleigh, and the second time at the 21st Century Building Expo in Charlotte in the fall.

## Verifier Training

Verifiers are independent, third party contractors accredited by the NAHB Research Center whose main duty is to verify that homes seeking certification within the Green Building program do meet the program requirements.

Individuals interested in becoming verifiers must have pre-existing experience that provides a baseline understanding of general home building practices and specific "green" building knowledge.

The green practices include lot design, preparation and development; resource, energy, and water efficiency; indoor environmental quality; and operation, maintenance, and building owner education. The four threshold levels, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Emerald provide builders with a means to achieve basic, entry-level green building, or achieve the highest level of sustainable "green" building that incorporates energy savings of 60 percent or higher. The Standard can be used by any builder for their individual projects.

\*\*The Standard is the first residential green building rating system to have undergone the full consensus process and to be submitted to the American National Standards Institute for approval.\*\*



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