

# WHY GREEN?

## BUILDING GREEN



Green building focuses on the efficient use of resources including energy, water and materials. Homes that utilize green strategies will better protect your health, while lowering your monthly bills and reducing impacts on the natural environment.

### BENEFITS TO THE HOMEOWNER:

- Lower electric bills
- Lower water bills
- Healthy indoor air quality
- Increased home value
- Long-term savings — as electricity and water rates increase, you save more money over time

### BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:

- Conservation of water resources
- Management of waste and stormwater
- Maintain affordable and reliable energy resources

## GREEN RENOVATING STRATEGIES

- Change out windows for double-pane, heat-resistant (Low-E) glass coated windows (the double-pane insulates, while the low-e reduces heat absorption from the sun)\*
- For a frame construction home, add foam insulation inside your walls\*
- Add insulation to your attic
- If you need to replace your roof, use light colored shingles\*
- Make sure your dishwasher and refrigerator are energy star, and don't keep a refrigerator or freezer in the garage
- Have your AC ducts checked for leaks; if it is old, consider replacing your AC\* with a more efficient model
- Use energy-efficient electronics, and unplug all electrical devices when not in use
- Keep your thermostat at 78 degrees during the hotter months
- Make sure you have no water leaks, and install low flow aerators in your sink and shower faucets (very simple and inexpensive, without compromising water pressure)

## MORE GREEN STRATEGIES



- If you need to replace toilets, get low or ultra-low flow toilets [low flow toilets use 1.6 or less gallons per flush (gpf); older toilets use 3.5 to 7 gpf]; composting toilets are another option for those who want to be very green\*
- Make sure your washing machine is energy star, wash only full loads of laundry, and use cold water as often as possible
- Change light bulbs to efficient CFLs (compact fluorescent lamp) or even more efficient LEDs (light emitting diode)
- If you are landscaping, minimize turf and use Florida-friendly, drought tolerant plants so that you do not have to irrigate; if you do irrigate, use reclaimed water\* (except for vegetable gardens), or install rain barrels under your gutters to use for watering
- Consider solar panels and a solar or tankless hot water heater\*

\*requires a permit

## SOLAR INCENTIVES

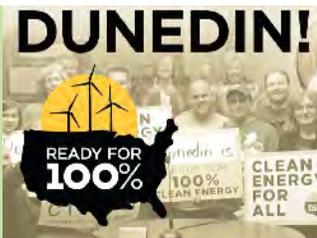


The cost of electricity typically increases annually and will likely continue to rise. By generating your own power with solar, you can stabilize your cost of electricity and even reduce its sensitivity to future rate hikes.

The City offers the following incentive for residential properties installing solar energy:

A solar energy incentive grant for the installation of solar panels. The grant is at a rate of \$0.25 per watt of solar power generated for a maximum grant of \$2,500. The grant will be awarded on a first come, first served basis with annual total funding determined in each fiscal year's budget. Installation must have occurred in the same fiscal year as the reimbursement request.

The typical household spends about \$2,150 a year on residential energy bills. Green homes typically use 30% - 60% less energy than a non-green home.



### CONTACT US

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## GREEN CERTIFYING AGENCIES

Researchers found that between 2007 and early 2012, the value of homes with a green certification label was an average of 9% higher than comparable, non-certified homes.

The following certifying agencies offer certification for new homes, home renovations and remodeling:

### RATING SYSTEMS:

- **LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for (new) Homes  
[usgbc.org/leed](http://usgbc.org/leed)
- **FGBC** (Florida Green Building Coalition) for (new) Homes  
[floridagreenbuilding.org/homes](http://floridagreenbuilding.org/homes)
- **NGBS** (ICC 700 National Green Building Standard™) Green Home Remodeling Project Certification  
[homeinnovation.com](http://homeinnovation.com)
- **EarthCraft Programs** — Renovation  
[earthcraft.org/renovation](http://earthcraft.org/renovation)

## GREENING YOUR HOME DUNEDIN



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