

Welcome to the Build It Green Local Government Site (10-10-08)

This site has been developed to assist California local governments with promoting green building in their communities. It draws on the experience of green building programs across the nation, distills the knowledge and experience of Build It Green, and focuses on the strategies that work for the public sector.

Local governments can look to Build It Green for the following:

- Authoritative advice on green building
- Assistance with developing a green building program in their communities including green building language for general plans, specific plans, affordable housing, ordinances, conditions of approval, and public education
- Connection to a network of other jurisdictions that are in different stages of the green building process
- Connection to a network of green builders and suppliers
- Support for green building

This site is divided into several sections to address specific questions and issues.

Part 1: Overview of Green Building

Section 1: Introduction to Green Building

Build It Green Efforts for Local Government

Levels of Local Government Involvement with Build It Green

GreenPoint Rated

GreenPoint Rated for New and Multifamily Homes

GreenPoint Rated for Existing Homes

GreenPoint Raters

Benefits of GreenPoint Rated to Local Government

Benefits of Tracking Green Building Using the Climate Calculator

Other Green Building Programs

1. LEED Certification

2. California Green Builder

3. California Building Standards Commission

a. Relationship to Local Government Green Building Policies

Voluntary and Mandatory Sections in the CA. Green Building Standards Code

Section 2: Role of Build It Green

Interact with Government

Interact with the Building Industry

Stimulate Demand

Create Synergy

Benefits of Membership in Build It Green

Section 3: Key Issues That May Be Raised in a Local Jurisdiction

1. Which program approach should be chosen – LEED, GreenPoint Rated, California Green Builder, In-house Program, or Recent State Green Building Codes?
2. Should green building verification be self-certified, conducted in-house or outsourced to a third party rater?
3. Should the program seek to attain a GreenPoint Rated label in addition to third party rating?
4. Should the program be voluntary or mandatory?
5. Should there be a mandatory requirement for GreenPoint Rated Existing Homes
6. Why does Build It Green support a threshold of 50 points rather than a higher number?
7. What incentives, if any should be provided?
8. How can program effectiveness be quantified?
9. How to develop access to GreenPoint Raters
10. How to address different residential programs?

Part 2: Creating Green Building Program?

Section 4: Roadmap to Developing a Green Building/Build It Green program in a local jurisdiction.

- Step 1 Form a green building team
- Step 2 Analyze the Market and identify stakeholders
- Step 3 Assess local policies and resources
- Step 4 Initiate training
- Step 5 Develop partnerships
- Step 6 Define program elements
 - Determine what the community wants
 - Develop program elements
- Step 7 Develop a community education program
 - Residential Green Building Standards
 - Balanced Consideration for Construction Economics
 - Guidelines for Commercial and Civic Building
 - Community Education
 - Continuing education for building professionals
 - Reaching out to homeowners
 - Keeping local government staff ahead of the curve
- Step 8 Generate Press and Publicity
- Step 9 Adopt Requirements
- Step 10 Gear Up for Applicants

Section 5: Implementation

Appendix A: Toolkit to Assist the Jurisdiction with Sample Documents

Attachment A: Membership Application to Build It Green for Public Agencies

Attachment B: Resolution Adopting Build It Green Guidelines as the Jurisdiction's Reference Standard Sample

Attachment C: New Home Construction Green Building Guidelines Staff Report Sample

Attachment D: Implementation Resolution Sample

Attachment E: Ordinance Sample

Appendix B: Process Used to Revise Build It Green Guidelines

Appendix C: State Review of Locally Adopted Energy Standards