



**Roanoke Valley
Cool Cities Coalition**
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Green Building Fact Sheet

The Problems

- Single family residences account for 20% of US energy consumption
- The average size of the US single family dwelling continues to increase - over 1/3 in the past 30 years alone
- Waste generated during the construction process composes almost 1/4 of all municipal solid waste

The Solutions

Design and construct houses with energy efficiency as the primary goal

- Use Energy Star standards as a minimum efficiency target – www.energystar.gov
- Maximize the orientation and layout of houses to take advantage of the sun as a heating source with Passive Solar principles - www.nesea.org/buildings/passive.html
- Consult your local green builder for additional energy saving construction methods such as Structural Insulating Panels and Insulating Concrete Forms

Emphasize the quality of spaces and rooms within the residence rather than the square footage

- Designers like Sarah Susanka focus on the importance of “gathering” spaces and “away” spaces within a house. Attention can be given to the specific needs of an individual or family within a house, and the amount of necessary area in a house can be reduced.
- Reductions in space can save construction costs, monthly utility costs, and greatly enhance the quality of life within the house – www.entsobighouse.com

Select materials that are compatible with values and priorities, and select a builder who understands the roots of these values and is committed to putting them into action

- An array of resources, product information, case studies and testimonials are available to buyers and builders – search the web for ‘Green Building Materials’ or the Clean Valley Council’s Green Building Resource Guide – www.cleanvalley.org
- It is important to prioritize the green materials that are most important to the individual. Often, due to cost, material sacrifices must be made. The buyer and homeowner shouldn’t allow remorse about the inability to utilize every green material and feature, but should embrace those that they can use.
- A Green Builder is committed to working with buyers and homebuilders to maximize the features that can be implemented.
- A Green Builder will minimize the waste generated during construction by various building methods, and will maximize recycling of waste to divert it from local landfills

**Green Building Fact Sheet provided by Chad Braby, Project Manager
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