

What is BUILT GREEN?

BUILT GREEN is an environmental building program designed to provide homebuyers with comfortable, durable, environmentally friendly homes that are cost-effective to own and operate. These resource-efficient homes are crafted to exceed building codes and provide homeowners with years of healthy, quality living, while protecting the precious Northwest environment.

Every **BUILT GREEN** home must meet green building standards developed by the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties in partnership with regional government and environmental groups. Each home builder completes a **BUILT GREEN** checklist identifying the specific green building features of the home. The program can certify several types of residential projects including:

- New single-family homes
- New multi-family homes
- Remodeling projects
- Community Developments

The **BUILT GREEN** logo is your assurance that the builder has certified your new home using Built Green standards and a Built Green checklist.

www.builtgreen.net

Landscape for Living



The PSE **BUILT GREEN** Idea Home features a roof garden as a patio off the master bedroom and a rain barrel to capture and store rain during the wet months for irrigation in the dry months.

Landscape Design Matters

BUILT GREEN homes can offer yards that protect your family and our beloved waterways and wildlife. With improved landscape design your family will enjoy:

■ **Healthy Wildlife:** Stormwater is rain that falls on developed land and runs off into nearby waterways, carrying with it pollutants like lawn chemicals, bacteria, oil and grease, and excess nutrients (from fertilizer). It can also gain heat from falling on paved surfaces. All of these factors degrade the quality of water that our Northwest wildlife depend on for a healthy life. Having a 'salmon-friendly' yard helps our wild neighbors survive and thrive. Your yard presents a chance to provide life's necessities for birds, bees and butterflies and other bugs that help pollinate our flowers and add beauty to our lives

■ **Better Long Term Value:** If trees offered no other benefit than providing us with oxygen to breathe, that would be enough. But they can also add up to 20% to your property value. A single mature tree can provide nearly \$300 in energy and resource values in terms of cooling, erosion and pollution control, and wildlife shelter. Built Green Homes aim to protect trees and natural vegetation during construction.

■ **More Time & Money:** Putting the right plants in the right place and developing good quality, healthy soil means 50% less watering in summer, less need for chemicals, and less waste to worry about.

■ **Family Health:** Having fewer and less toxic chemicals around the house and your yard reduces the risk of exposure or accidental ingestion by children.

Green Construction Details in Living Landscapes

Conscientious contractors use natural lawn and garden principles and alternative site development practices to minimize stormwater runoff, including:

- Amending soils by tilling compost into the top 8-13 inches to improve its ability to absorb water and provide nutrients for plants.
- Taking extra precautions to protect trees, native vegetation, and topsoil during construction by limiting the area that is cleared.
- Using alternative foundations, such as Pin Foundations, which use steel rods to anchor the concrete base wall rather than excavating and grading a large area.
- Using pervious materials, which let water filter through, for driveways, walkways and patios helps stormwater soak in on site.
- Landscaping with native plants or plants that are adapted to our climate reduces the need for constant watering and some pest problems. Mulching landscape beds with organic mulch.
- Creating areas, like rain gardens, for excess water to collect and filter into the ground naturally.
- Minimizing lawn areas, and using grass types that require less watering and maintenance.



10 Actions You Can Take for a More Natural Yard

During Construction:

1. Let your builder know that a natural landscape and low impact site development are high priorities for you and your family.
2. Refer to a BUILT GREEN checklist (online) and ask your builder to highlight actions they are taking to preserve the ecological health of your yard.

Living in your Home:

3. Avoid toxic products for moss, weed and pest control; a little tolerance and a lot of alternatives can keep poisons out of our ecosystem.
4. Choose plants that are disease-resistant and drought tolerant. Native species are usually a good bet.
5. Plant 'thirsty' plants together and mulch them well to make the most of the irrigation you provide.
6. Plant areas that mimic the forest (ground cover, shrubs, trees); no mowing and less weeding.
7. Use grass seed blends for the Northwest. They are drought tolerant and need less mowing.
8. Use a mulching mower that puts grass clippings back into the lawn for fertilizer.
9. Start a compost pile for yard wastes.
10. Use safe outdoor lumber to create decks, patio and seating areas to enjoy your beautiful yard!

“ Our buyers are thrilled to find new homes nestled in mature native landscaping and surrounded by large trees - carefully preserved to provide a sense of place, and to maximize light. After construction is complete - it seems our homes have always been there! ” - The Cottage Company

For more information

- Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline, 206-633-0224, e-mail info@lawnandgardenhotline.org offers advice, tips and free brochures. The website <http://www.lawnandgardenhotline.org> links to Seattle Tilth, with lots of organic gardening resources
- Washington State University Master Gardener Information, 206-296-3440, <http://gardening.wsu.edu>
- Choosing the right plant for the right place: <http://www.GreatPlantPicks.org> and Washington Native Plant Society, <http://www.wnps.org>



BUILT GREEN
Master Builders Association
of King and Snohomish Counties
335 116th Avenue SE, Bellevue WA 98004
Phone (425) 451-7920 Fax (425) 646-5985
www.builtgreen.net

