



# GREEN BUILDING

## The Recycling Connection

**Buildings account for 60 percent of raw material consumption in the U.S. (USGS 1998.)**

### **WHAT IS GREEN BUILDING?**

Buildings that have been constructed to comply with a green building standard have been built to consider the following:

- Site. Green building projects seek to build on previously developed sites, to restore sites to their natural states, and reduce the impact of the building project on the area surrounding the construction site.
- Water Efficiency. Green buildings seek to drastically reduce water consumption through the use of water efficient features and use grey water when appropriate.
- Energy and atmosphere. Green buildings significantly reduce the energy consumed by a building and utilize sustainable energy (example: solar and wind power).
- Materials and resources. Green buildings use materials that are regionally produced, made from recycled and non-toxic materials, and salvaged from deconstructed buildings. Construction waste is recycled and reduced by at least 75 percent on green building projects.
- Indoor environmental quality. Green buildings encourage natural lighting, operable heating systems and windows, and non-toxic paints and adhesives.

### **WHY IS GREEN BUILDING IMPORTANT?**

Standard buildings consume 30 percent of the total energy and 60 percent of the electricity used in the United States each year. A conventional North American construction project generates up to 2.5 pounds of solid waste per square foot of completed floor space. (USGBC New Construction and Major Renovation Version 2.2 Reference Guide.)

Green building practices:

- ◆ Drastically reduce the negative environmental impacts of building practices.
- ◆ Save money in operation and maintenance costs.
- ◆ Provide a market niche for contractors.
- ◆ Drive other green industries. Examples: FSC Wood and non-toxic products.



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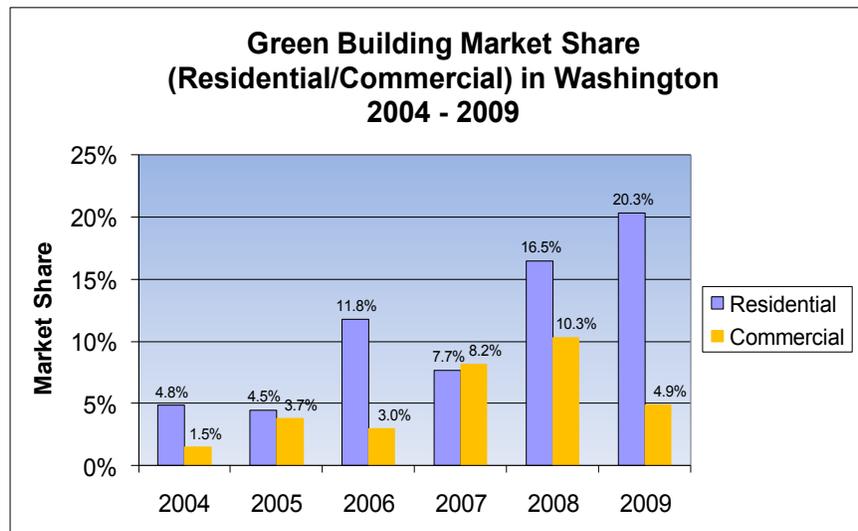
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## **HOW DO I KNOW IF A BUILDING IS “GREEN”?**

There are currently several “green building” certification systems that apply to buildings ranging from single family homes to commercial scale construction projects in Washington:

- **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)**  
LEED is a national standard for high-performance buildings developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED points are earned for achieving various performance criteria. LEED standards exist for new construction/major renovation, existing buildings, homes, schools, and interiors.
- **BuiltGreen**  
The BuiltGreen standards provide guidelines and checklists for green residential construction. Checklists take into account regional environmental variances. BuiltGreen programs in Washington operate out of Home Building Association Chapters across the state.

## **WHAT DOES THE GREEN BUILDING INDUSTRY LOOK LIKE IN WASHINGTON STATE?**



Source: Waste 2 Resources Program, Washington State Department of Ecology

### ***Visit these websites for more information on green building:***

- Cascadia Region Green Building Council (CRGBC) – [www.cascadiagbc.org/](http://www.cascadiagbc.org/)
- BuiltGreen Washington – [www.builtgreenwashington.org/](http://www.builtgreenwashington.org/)
- Northwest EcoBuilding Guild – [www.ecobuilding.org/](http://www.ecobuilding.org/)
- Washington State Department of Ecology – [www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/greenbuilding.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/greenbuilding.html)

