



## **GREEN BUILDING TIPS**

According to "Green Building Basics" a green building, also known as a sustainable building, is a structure that is designed, built, renovated, operated or reused in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. Green buildings are designed to meet certain objectives such as using energy, water, and other resources more efficiently thus reducing the overall impact to the environment and in turn creating a healthier indoor environment. Here are some things (and certainly not all encompassing) to think about when looking for a new home:

### **CHECK THESE OUT:**

1. What type of insulation does the home have and how much?
2. What are "R" values?
3. Where do you lose most of your heating and cooling?
4. How energy efficient are the windows?
5. What is between the ceiling and the roof?
6. What is a radiant barrier?
7. What building materials are being used to build the home? How efficient are they?
8. What SEER is the AC unit?
9. What does SEER mean and what is the most energy efficient?
10. What is grey water versus reclaimed water?
11. Is the toilet low-flow or dual flush?
12. Are low-emitting materials used for the floors, wall paint?
13. Can you use a "tankless" water heater? What is that?
14. Can you have a solar hot water heater?
15. What are solar tubes?
16. What is a cooling tower? Can you have one?
17. Does the home use Energy Star appliances?
18. Can you install Photovoltaic Solar Panels?
19. What are the advantages of doing so?
20. Are there programs to help with the purchase of solar energy?
21. Is the home a LEEDS certified home? What is that?
22. Can you install Energy Star lighting?
23. What type of landscape does the home have?
24. What is Xeriscape?
25. What is water harvesting?
26. Is the house oriented efficiently on the site?
27. Does the home have a hot water recirculating system?
28. Does the home have a fresh air exchange?

### **IDEAS TO INCORPORATE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE:**

1. Turn down your thermostat by 2 degrees.
2. Run dishwasher only when full and on its energy-saver mode.
3. Check out the Tucson Electric "time of use" program.
4. Wash clothes in cold water.
5. Dry half of your clothes on the clothes line or drying rack.
6. Raise your thermostat from 72 to 73 during the summer.
7. Plug electronics into power strip and turn off when not in use.

8. Insulate your water heater.
9. Caulk and weatherstrip your home.
10. Take the bus to work one day a week.
11. Clean your refrigerator's coils regularly.
12. Replace one 70 watt bulb with a 9 watt LED
13. Keep tires properly inflated.