

Habitat for Humanity Builds It Green!

Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the state are leading the way in *energy efficient, environmentally responsible, and affordably sustainable* home construction. So what does that mean, how are we building, and who are we building with?

What does "Green" mean to Habitat for Humanity?

Thoughtful Design. Sustainability begins in the planning stages. Energy savings and lifecycle costs are calculated up front, in order to fully realize the energy benefits available.

Durability and Affordability. The materials we use will have a long life in the home, and a shorter payoff on investment. Our builds incorporate products that are proven to be sturdy, healthy, and reasonably priced; products that make long-term economic sense in durability while keeping the up-front cost affordable. Additionally, construction prioritizes products that have been recycled, can be recycled, or will biodegrade in a reasonable time.



Energy Conservation Behavior. Not only do affiliates incorporate materials that conserve resources in the long run (such as Energy Star appliances and low-flow water fixtures), we also strive to reduce construction waste on the front end. In addition, we work with the family that will live in the home, navigating which choices will effect energy use and, ultimately, utility bills.

Indoor Air Quality. Habitat for Humanity recognizes the negative effects of improper air exchange, chemical-laden wood products, and material off-gassing. We consistently assess these issues with planning and design, in an effort to make our homes healthy for day-to-day living as well as for the big, environmental picture.

Continued...



...what does “green” mean cont.

- Local. Sustainability extends to the community in which the home is built. A home built using local labor and materials uses less energy in transportation costs and keeps revenue in the neighborhood.
- Minnesota Green Communities Criteria. Developed by the Enterprise Foundation, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF), and the Family Housing Fund (FHF), this green criteria program is designed specifically for affordable housing; it is a new goal in Habitat for Humanity. The Minnesota Green Communities Criteria advances “environmental quality, economic vitality, and social benefits” through design planning and construction practice. The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) has endorsed this program, making compliance a requirement for all new construction built with MHFA funding. The MHFA recently awarded Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota a \$304,000 grant as a result of the affiliates’ commitment to build to the Minnesota Green Communities Criteria.

How does Habitat build it green?

- Douglas County affiliate completes an Energy Star home in 12 build days.
- North St. Louis County affiliate frames with sustainably harvested wood.
- Rice County builds foundation to lid with Insulated Concrete Forms. Homeowners pay an average \$25 per month in heat utility.
- Goodhue County routinely achieves a HERS index of 65 or better.
- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity builds to LEED for Homes Criteria.



Who builds it green with Habitat?

- DOW weatherproofing materials
- VALSPAR low-VOC paints
- MINNCOR cabinets
- ANDERSON windows
- REWARD wall systems
- SAF Society of American Foresters
- MPCA Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES
- MINNESOTA POWER
- THE ENERGY CONSERVATORY
- NEIGHBORHOOD ENERGY CONNECTION



About Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota...

Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc. (HFH-MN) is a statewide resource development and support organization that serves, advocates for and advances the work of **Minnesota’s thirty-three Habitat for Humanity affiliates** to build simple, decent, affordable housing in partnership with people in need. Currently, HFH-MN is dedicating resources to a Sustainable Building Program (SBP). The SBP is designed to help Habitat affiliates around the state remain at the fore of energy- and resource-efficient, affordable home construction. To learn more about the SBP and Habitat for Humanity, contact Molly Berg, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota’s Sustainable Building Specialist, or visit our website.
Molly Berg: 612-331-4439 x.7 or molly@hfhmn.org; website: www.hfhmn.org