

# Resources to Green Your Home

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There are a variety of features that can help green your home, improve performance, increase comfort, and improve health and safety. The following resources provide a general overview of the key elements of green home construction and renovation.

## **Overview**

- [LEED for Homes](#), a residential rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- [National Green Building Standard](#), a residential rating system developed by the National Association of Home Builders.
- [Seattle's Green Home Remodeling Guides](#) cover a broad range of topics and provide strategies for green home remodeling; including an overview, bath & laundry, kitchen, painting, lighting, landscape materials, roofing, hiring a pro, salvage & reuse, and home energy guide.
- [US EPA, Green Homes](#)
- Partnership for Advancing Housing Technology (PATH) [Guide to Green Building](#)
- US Green Building Council's LEED for Homes [Homeowners Operations and Maintenance \(HOM\) Manual](#) (Zip file)

## **Historic Preservation and Sustainability**

Rockville's historic homes have unique opportunities and challenges for sustainability. By nature, the reuse and reinvestment in historic structures reduces waste, energy demand and natural resource consumption, as well as conserves embodied energy. Green improvements should honor the historic integrity of the building and recognize the unique characteristics of the building materials, systems, and climate. Importantly, before adding insulation and sealing your home, you should consider moisture and ventilation issues to prevent mold and mildew, damage to the home and compromised indoor air quality. Exterior features, such as roofing, doors, windows, insulation and mechanical systems may also require careful planning and design.

- Rockville's [Historic Preservation](#) Office manages the City's historic resources and has information on Historic Preservation Tax credits
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation's](#) approach to sustainability
- National Park Service, [Conserving Energy in Historic Buildings](#)

## **Sustainable Sites**

Sustainable site development involves the wise selection of a site that minimizes environmental impacts, reduces emissions associated with transportation, implements sustainable landscape practices that reduce resource consumption and restores natural areas, manages stormwater runoff, reduces the heat island effect and eliminates light pollution.

- [Residential Uses of Low Impact Development](#)
- Rockville's [Rainscapes Rewards program](#) helps home-owners improve stormwater conditions on their property.
- [Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection](#) provides planning guidance for various residential rainscaping techniques to improve drainage and stormwater management.
- The National Parks Service's [Native Plants for Conservation Landscaping](#) identifies native plants for this area.
- [Rockville's Invasive Plants](#)
- National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas](#)
- Montgomery County's [Guidelines for Controlling Runoff on Small Lots](#). Includes information on the use of dry wells, rain barrels, pervious pavers, and green roofs to control runoff on small residential projects. Please note that the permit process in Rockville differs from the County and the City is in the process of developing its own guidelines.
- Maryland Cooperative Extension, [Lawns and the Chesapeake Bay](#), presents lawn care tips to prevent pollutants from reaching our streams and the Bay.
- Green Roofs provide a variety of benefits, from reduced energy use, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions to enhanced stormwater management and water quality. The [U.S. EPA's Green Roofs program](#) includes a variety of information.
- Transportation: Rockville is served by numerous transportation systems to accommodate those who choose to travel without a car.
  - [Transit Opportunities](#)
  - [Bicycling Opportunities](#)
- The US EPA [Urban Heat Island Mitigation](#) website includes four key strategies: 1) trees and vegetation; 2) green roofs; 3) cool roofs; and 4) cool pavements.

## **Water Conservation**

There are a variety of options to conserve water, both inside and outside your home to help you save money and reduce demand on public water supplies and infrastructure.

- Rockville's [Rainscapes Rewards program](#) helps homeowners improve stormwater conditions on their property.
- Rockville is a partner in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' [Wise Water Use Campaign](#), the first regionally coordinate effort to promote wise water use and stewardship. The campaign has over 100 water saving tips that can be easily incorporated into everyday life.
- [WaterSense](#) is a partnership program, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to make it easy to save water and protect the environment. Look for the WaterSense label to choose quality, water-efficient products.

## **Energy Efficiency and Atmosphere**

Efforts to address energy reliability and affordability, slow the depletion of the ozone layer, and mitigate climate change focus on energy demand, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and ongoing energy performance.

### *Energy Efficiency*

- [Maryland Home Performance with ENERGY STAR](#) offers a whole-house approach energy efficiency, including an energy audit and a list of certified contractors.
- [Home Energy Audits](#), learn about the benefits of an energy audit, how to conduct a "do-it-yourself" audit or hire a certified contractor, and how to find incentives to pay for the energy audit and improvements.
- [The Department of Energy's Insulation Fact Sheet](#) presents an overview of the different type of insulation and tips for insulating new and existing homes.
- [ENERGY STAR Qualified Products](#) include appliances, computers and electronics, heating and cooling, lighting and fans, plumbing and building products.
- [ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes](#) contains information for home improvement as well as new homes. Qualified homes include an efficient home envelope, air distribution system, equipment, lighting and appliances.

### *Green Energy*

- [Clean Energy](#), learn more about what it is, how much it costs, and how you can purchase clean energy or install renewable energy system in your home.
- [Green-e Energy](#) is a voluntary certification and verification program for renewable energy products.
- [Maryland Clean Energy Center's](#) tips for clean energy alternatives (solar, wind, geothermal, and energy efficiency).

### *Energy Incentives*

- There are a variety of rebates and [energy programs available to Rockville residents](#) to help improve home energy efficiency and use renewable energy.

## **Materials and Resources**

Buildings generate a large amount of waste throughout their life cycles, from construction to building operation to demolition. Green building addresses waste management and life-cycle impacts.

- [Rockville refuse and recycling program](#) provides information on the City services.
- Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services, "[How to Recycle/Dispose of ...](#)" provides recycling and disposal tips for a variety of household items.
- Montgomery County provides [composting tips](#) and an opportunity to pick-up a free residential compost bin at a variety of locations.

- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments compiled a convenient guide to identify businesses in the area that reuse or recycle construction materials or provide construction materials recovery services. The directory is not intended to be exhaustive and does not represent an endorsement for any of the listed products and services.
  - [Builders' Recycling Guide](#)
  - [Guides and Resources for Construction Waste Reuse and Recycling](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) certified wood promotes sustainable forest management worldwide.

## Indoor Environmental Quality

Indoor environment quality is a major concern for buildings and the health, safety, and productivity of their occupants. Strategies reduce indoor air pollutants, ensure adequate ventilation of fresh air, and appropriate controls for thermal comfort, lighting, and acoustics.

- US EPA [Indoor AirPLUS](#) program contains specifications to improve air quality in new homes to protect from moisture, mold, pests, combustion gases, and other airborne pollutants.
- US EPA, "[A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home](#)"
- US EPA, "[Home Improvement, Mold, Mildew or Musty Odors](#)"
- [Green Seal](#) provides third-party certification of environmental friendly floor finishes, household cleaning products, paints and coatings.
- US EPA, [Radon and Indoor Air Quality](#)
- The Carpet and Rug Institute offers the [Green Label and Green Label Plus](#) certification program for low volatile organic compounds (VOC) carpet, carpet backings, cushions and adhesives.