

Before you start your renovation project, plan to incorporate energy efficient components early in the planning process. “Building Green” is easy to do, saves money, and helps create a healthier home.

The City of Boston and the Green Roundtable have developed detailed web based information sheets on how residents can easily incorporate green building practices into even the smallest renovation project.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Boston Home Center
26 Court Street, Boston
617.635.4663
www.cityofboston.gov/dnd

Office of Environmental and Energy Services
One City Hall Square, Boston
Room 603
617.635.3425
www.cityofboston.gov/climate

The Green Roundtable’s NEXUS Center
38 Chauncy Street, Boston
617.374.3740
www.greenroundtable.org



CITY OF BOSTON
Thomas M. Menino
Mayor

James W. Hunt, III
Chief of
Environment and Energy

quick greening tips

- Purchase a programmable thermostat for heating and cooling and save \$150 per year.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs and save \$30 over the life of the bulb.
- Purchase air conditioners with programmable thermostats.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes and air dry.
- Insulate air conditioning ducts, hot water heater and hot water pipes.
- Plug air leaks: install weather-strip-ping, caulk leaky doors and windows, and install gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Install white window shades or blinds to reflect heat away.
- Use green cleaning methods and products: (www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/products/cleaner.htm).
- Install low-flow faucets, showerheads and toilets (www.bwsc.org for free water saving kits and information).
- Buy an energy-efficient water heater and wrap in an approved blanket.
- Use the City’s free weekly recycling program to recycle household cans, bottles, newspapers, magazines and other materials.
- Purchase rain barrels, kitchen scrap buckets and compost bins, some at below cost from the City’s Recycling Program 617.635.4959 or visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycle

LOWER
YOUR
UTILITY
BILLS
and green
your home



BOSTON GREEN
BUILDING

lower your utility bills

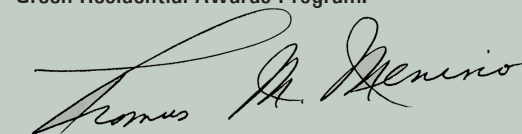
Dear Fellow Bostonian:

As a homeowner who has done renovations, I know how important it is to choose materials that are durable, reduce your energy and water costs, and provide for a healthier home environment.

This brochure presents practical tips for home renovation projects and includes “Quick Greening Tips” for homeowners who are not renovating but want to improve the efficiency and livability of their homes. Before you get started on your project, take some time to consider green building practices, and speak with your supplier and/or contractor.

This information is part of the City’s Climate Protection agenda in Boston to reduce our impact on global warming, protect the environment, and improve public health. Many of these strategies will also save you money on your utility bills.

You can also contact my Environmental and Energy Services Cabinet at 617.635.3425 or visit our web page at www.cityofboston.gov/climate for additional information, including how you can participate in the Green Residential Awards Program.



Thomas M. Menino
Mayor

LOWER YOUR UTILITY BILLS

Evaluate your home for energy efficiency and take advantage of product rebates.

- For information on rebates and energy audits, contact: Mass SAVE (www.masssave.org), NSTAR (www.nstar.com), National Grid (www.nationalgrid.com), and Boston Water & Sewer Commission (www.bwsc.org).

Install new windows or insulate existing ones.

- Wood frames hold heat and they are renewable and biodegradable. Consider repairing existing windows before buying new.
- Select the most appropriate energy performance rating for new windows. Consult the rating system of the National Fenestration Rating Council (www.nfrc.org) and your window suppliers.
- Install awnings to keep out direct summer sun.

Siding can make your house more energy efficient.

- Use engineered wood siding, which is long lasting, low maintenance and low cost. See the Forest Stewardship Council (www.fsc.org) for specific information.
- Fiber-cement siding is the most popular, will not rot and is strong, long-lasting and lower cost.
- Aluminum and steel contain recycled content and can be re-used.
- Consider adding insulation when installing new siding.

Use a roofing material that will save energy, is long lasting and maintenance free.

- Rule out spot repairs of your roof before a complete restoration.
- Install light-colored or reflective roofing materials to reduce heat absorption.
- Install flashing to prevent water leakage.

Purchase Energy Star™ products

- High-efficiency kitchen appliances, laundry, water heaters, and air conditioners will save you money.
- Programmable thermostats can save you about \$150 per year.
- Each compact fluorescent light bulb can save \$30 over the life of the bulb.

MAKE YOUR HOME A HEALTHIER PLACE

- Use water-based paints.
- Use low volatile organic compounds (VOC) paint and adhesives for your wallpaper and tiling.
- Use green cleaning products for regular household maintenance

Waterproofing and moisture control helps reduce mold.

- In high moisture areas use closed cell foam insulation.
- Install vapor barriers to avoid moisture from reaching interior material.
- Insulate pipes under sinks to avoid condensation.
- Use impermeable material for flooring, seal seams and edges near walls.

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Recycle and Reuse

- Reuse materials and appliances that are in condition, recycle instead of simply throwing away.
- Contact the Boston Materials Resource Center (www.Bostonbmrc.org) for information on donating or purchasing recycled materials.
- Contact the City’s Recycling Program about free paint for re-use at 617.635.4959 (www.cityofgov/publicworks/recycling).

Construct your deck with reclaimed, recycled or non-toxic composite materials.

- Wood composite and plastic made from recycled content are durable, low-maintenance, and last longer.
- Choose solid wood from forests that are managed in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Consider constructing a patio made from brick or local stone.