

Overview of Environmental Certification Programs

Built Green™

- Uses a point system to evaluate criteria relating to site and water, energy efficiency, health and indoor air quality, and materials efficiency
- Developed and managed by local home builder associations
- Currently offered in 14 Western Washington counties
- Over 11,000 homes certified regionally to date
- Some associations' programs offer multi-family, remodel, and community certification
- Some associations' programs offer levels requiring third-party verification
- For more information, see www.builtgreenwashington.org

ENERGY STAR® Homes

- Uses third-party verification and performance testing to assure homebuyers of at least 15 percent savings on energy use compared to typical new homes
- Evaluates criteria relating to windows, insulation, lighting, and heating and cooling equipment
- Nationwide program developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Washington certifications managed by Washington State University Energy Program
- Over 1,200 homes certified in the Puget Sound in less than two years
- Four out of five Northwest residents recognize the ENERGY STAR label
- For more information, see www.northwestenergystar.com

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

- Uses third-party verification and performance testing to evaluate criteria relating to site development, water use, energy use, indoor air quality, materials use, and other factors
 - Nationwide program developed by nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council
 - 289 commercial buildings been certified nationwide since 2000, including 45 in Washington State
 - Approx. 60 homes in Western Washington are currently pursuing certification under LEED's new program for single-family homes
 - For more information, see www.usgbc.org
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