



Go Green! – What You Can Do

The SCU Solar Decathlon Team is building a house to challenge how houses are built. Below are some sustainable and energy-saving suggestions you can find in our competition house that we hope you find useful in your own home also.

Home Retrofitting

Retrofitting your home can be a great opportunity to “go green.” By replacing outdated features of your home, you can increase your energy savings and create a healthier indoor environment through sustainable alternatives with low levels of harmful chemicals.

low or no VOC paints—Benjamin Moore has an eco-friendly line of paints that is water-based and has much less volatile organic compounds than traditional paints. These paints drastically reduce indoor chemical off-gassing—the release of paint fumes and chemicals into the air inhabitants breathe. At \$50/gallon, they are a bit more expensive than traditional paints which run around \$20-30/gallon.
www.benjaminmoore.com

recycled tiles—post-consumer and post-industrial recycled tiles can be made from a variety of materials, including recycled glass, ceramic and even old coke bottles.

www.sandhillind.com

www.fireclaytile.com

www.crossvilleinc.com

bamboo flooring—our bamboo hardwood flooring is sustainably harvested at maturity between 5 ½ to 6 years and is constructed with an adhesive containing 0.0115 ppm formaldehyde, over 32 times less than California standards. Bamboo is a rapidly renewable resource that is a sustainable alternative to traditional wood flooring. Choose your bamboo source carefully: bamboo that is harvested too soon is less expensive but also less durable, while bamboo harvested too late can become brittle.

www.teragren.com

bamboo cabinetry—our bamboo cabinets are assembled with formaldehyde-free adhesives. Formaldehyde is a toxic chemical that is classified by the EPA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health as a “probable human carcinogen” that causes headaches, nausea, fatigue, breathing difficulty and even asthma attacks.

www.bamboocabinets.com



New Construction

New building projects are exciting in the world of sustainability because when building from scratch, you can utilize passive solar design—window placement, strategic shading, etc—that adds little extra cost to a project, but pays back in energy savings rather quickly. In addition to passive design, we are excited about the wealth of sustainable construction materials that are both easy to use and reasonably priced.

denim insulation—Bonded Logic insulation is 85% post-industrial natural cotton fibers—old blue jeans—that are 100% recyclable. It contains no chemical irritants, carcinogens, or airborne particulates, a common problem in traditional fiberglass insulation.

www.bondedlogic.com

electro-chromatic window film—this easy to apply window film can shade to control the amount of light, glare and heat entering your home. This film eliminates the need for mechanical blinds/shading and increases the efficiency of your heating, ventilation, air-conditioning system.

www.innovativeglasscorp.com

Richlite® siding—Richlite® is a material made from baked paper that has low thermal mass and when strategically placed on exterior walls, can passively let in favorable natural heat to warm a home during cold but sunny conditions.

www.richlite.com

Renters/Leasers/Apartment or Dorm Dwellers

Do not fear—you do not need to start repainting or tearing out your insulation to make your living space more sustainable and energy efficient.

compact fluorescent bulbs—Energy Star qualified light bulbs use 75% less energy and last 10 times as long as traditional incandescent bulbs. They can be used in almost any fixture.

sustainable furniture—Reclaimed wood or sustainably harvested (Forest Stewardship Council certified) furniture makes smart use of a limited resource. Look for furniture that uses non-toxic, water-based and formaldehyde-free glues and stains. These will greatly reduce the amount of chemicals you breathe in as your product ages.

