

# Green Building Resources/Organizations

## New Jersey Resources

- New Jersey Bureau of Sustainable Communities and Innovative Technologies,
  - The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) launched an initiative designed to support and help educate New Jersey communities that would like to become environmentally sustainable. DEP's vision is a sustainable New Jersey built on a network of environmentally sustainable communities. The initiative's mission is to help create that network of environmentally sustainable communities — communities that can persist over generations, enjoying a healthy environment, prosperous economy and vibrant civic life. A sustainable community does not undermine its social or physical systems of support. Rather, it develops in harmony with regional ecological characteristics. A number of New Jersey municipalities, including Montclair, Highland Park and Belmar, are already engaged in sustainability initiatives. Their noteworthy efforts encouraged DEP to develop this primer to help communities throughout the state follow the pioneering examples of these three towns. The DEP offers two levels of assistance to communities that are ready to commit to becoming environmentally sustainable. The first level will help communities incorporate the basic tools necessary to implement sustainable environmental practices. The second level will assist communities that have the basic tools in place to further integrate environmental sustainability into their daily operations.  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/bscit/SustCommunities.htm>
  - How to Become an Environmentally Sustainable Community –A Primer  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/bscit/howtobecome-esc.pdf>
  - Green Purchasing -A Guide for Local Communities <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/bscit/sustainable-comm/epp.pdf>
- New Jersey Clean Energy Program
  - Here you will find the support you need to learn how to implement renewable energy generation technologies and systems and how to save on energy costs now and in the future. Whether it's rebates that can save you up to 70% off the cost of installing a solar electric system, low-interest loans for businesses and schools that want to combine energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies, or grants for utility scale projects and startup businesses. <http://njcep.com/>
- New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission
  - Visit this website to access information about how you can get funding to construct buildings that are built using green building design techniques: <http://www.newjerseycommerce.com.br/eng>
- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
  - Office of Smart Growth  
The Office of Smart Growth is currently developing several plans that are aimed at enhancing the quality of life of all New Jersey residents. One such plan is the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan which will coordinate planning activities and establish Statewide planning objectives in the following areas: land use, housing, economic development, transportation, natural resource conservation, agriculture and farmland retention, recreation, urban and suburban redevelopment, historic preservation, public facilities and services, and intergovernmental coordination. To learn more about this plan and others soon to come, visit the following website:  
<http://www.nj.gov/dca/osg/plan/index.shtml>
  - Council on Affordable Housing (COAH)  
The mission of the Council on Affordable Housing is to facilitate the production of sound, affordable housing for low and moderate income households by providing the most effective process to municipalities, housing providers, nonprofit and for profit developers to address a constitutional obligation within the framework of sound, comprehensive planning. To learn more, visit COAH's website at: <http://www.nj.gov/dca/coah/>
  - Housing Mortgage Finance Agency- Visit this website to access information about how you can get funding to build residential buildings that are constructed using green building design techniques.  
[www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa](http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa)
  - New Jersey Green Homes Office  
The mission of the office is to fundamentally improve the environmental performance, energy efficiency, quality, and affordability of housing in NJ. Through advocacy, education, and technical assistance they

Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey  
McCauley House PO Box 7718 Ewing, NJ 08628-0718

Telephone: (609) 771-2832 Fax: (609) 637-5162 Web: [www.tcnj.edu/mluc](http://www.tcnj.edu/mluc) E-mail: [mluc@tcnj.edu](mailto:mluc@tcnj.edu)

aim to accelerate the use of innovative green design and building technologies, raise building standards and create a consumer demand for efficient and environmentally responsible -high performance homes. <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dh/gho/>, email: njgreenhome@dca.state.nj.us

- New Jersey Economic Development Authority
  - Whether you are a business in need of financing to grow in New Jersey, a nonprofit organization seeking capital to expand community services, a municipality looking to attract a major corporation within your boundaries, or a developer requiring funds for a major redevelopment project, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) is ready to put its resources to work for you. Visit their website to learn more about entrepreneurial services, financial assistance, and much more. <http://www.njeda.com/>
- Green Project- Highland Park, NJ
  - Highland Park is taking commendable steps to become a more sustainable community, and one important step is to undertake a green planning process. This web site provides several key building blocks for the green planning process. It develops detailed data on current conditions and offers recommendations for improvements that will enhance the environmental and economic performance of Highland Park. It serves as a guide for the citizens, public employees, elected officials and businesses of Highland Park who are pursuing sustainable development. <http://greenhp.org/>
- New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA)
  - The New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA) is a state financing authority committed to the redevelopment of urban New Jersey. The NJRA has defined itself as a comprehensive resource center that customizes project financing for redevelopment projects that enhance New Jersey's cities. Their goal is to provide a creative approach to redevelopment efforts in New Jersey's cities. The NJRA also hopes to develop programs and resources to improve the quality of life by creating value in urban communities which attract and maintain development opportunities to sustain neighborhoods. To learn more about past, current, and future projects, visit their website: <http://www.njra.us/njra/>
- The New Jersey Sustainable State Institute
  - New Jersey Sustainable State Institute. NJSSI is an independent agency that works with government, public interest groups, business leaders, scientists, and citizens from all walks of life, to answer the question: "*Where are we, and where do we need to be, in order to preserve our quality of life and become a sustainable state?*" NJSSI convenes multi-stakeholder processes to identify goals, indicators and targets for the future of New Jersey. We cover economic, social and environmental issues that: Are critical to the future well-being of New Jersey; Manifest over a long time period; Are difficult for most citizens to follow without indicators to track progress. The current goals and indicators can be found in our most recent report, *Living With the Future in Mind: Goals and Indicators for New Jersey's Quality of Life*. NJSSI has recently begun developing targets of sustainable development for New Jersey starting in the field of energy. <http://www.njssi.net>
- US Green Building Council, NJ Chapter
  - The mission of this committee is to be the foremost coalition in the public and private sectors promoting the planning, design, construction, and operation/maintenance of buildings that are environmentally responsible, cost effective, productive, and healthy places to live, learn and work. The chapter provides networking monthly forums, educational opportunities, information and resources sharing throughout the New Jersey region. Learn more about the USGBC, the events they sponsor, and become a member by visiting their website: <http://www.usgbc.org/chapters/newjersey/default.asp>

## National Resources

- BuildingGreen Suite
  - BuildingGreen Suite is a subscription-based online resource for environmentally sensitive design and construction. BuildingGreen Suite offers you a wide range of information - from articles and product listings to project case studies - to help you build a greener world. <http://www.buildinggreen.com>

- Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE)
  - The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy is an ongoing project of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and managed by the North Carolina Solar. The database is a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility, and selected federal incentives that promote renewable energy. DSIRE now includes state *and* federal incentives for energy efficiency. <http://dsireusa.org/>
- Development Center for Appropriate Technology (DCAT)
  - Founded in 1991 as a non-profit organization, The Development Center for Appropriate Technology draws on extensive experience in traditional and alternative building and development, providing strategic support for the shift to sustainable building practices through leadership, strategic relationships, and education. Visit there website to connect with people, information and resources that you can use on the path to sustainability. Also, learn more about their current projects, goals, and read success stories about DCAT's past projects. <http://www.dcat.net>
- DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
  - There is no shortage of useful information at this site, which is the home page of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The site, which is searchable by keyword, provides links to information on the whole spectrum of energy-efficiency and renewable energy topics, as well as a list of key contacts and a list of hot topics (the federal budget or Mideast oil, for example). EREN offers access to DOE's national laboratory data bases on a host of topics, such as solar access and wind regimes. There is even a form to submit energy-related questions and lists of discussion groups on various energy-related topics. <http://www.eere.energy.gov/>
  - DOE Rebuild America Program  
Rebuild America is a growing network of community-driven voluntary partnerships that foster energy efficiency and renewable energy in commercial, government and public-housing buildings. At the federal level, it is the largest, most established technology deployment program within DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). The program's goals are to: conserve energy, accelerate use of the best energy technologies, save money, reduce air pollution, lower U.S. reliance on energy imports, help revitalize aging city and town neighborhoods, and create "smart energy" jobs. Learn more about this program by visiting this website: <http://www.rebuild.gov/index.asp>
  - DOE Million Solar Roofs Program  
The Million Solar Roofs Initiative is a unique public-private partnership, aimed at overcoming barriers to market entry for selected solar technologies. The goal of the Initiative is practical and market-driven: to facilitate the sale and installation of one million "solar roofs" by 2010. Learn more about this program by visiting this website: <http://www.millionsolarroofs.org/>
  - DOE Building America Program  
Building America is a private/public partnership that develops energy solutions for new and existing homes. The Building America project combines the knowledge and resources of industry leaders with the U.S. Department of Energy's technical capabilities. Together, they act as a catalyst for change in the home-building industry. Learn more about this program by visiting this website: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building\\_america/](http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building_america/)
- Energy Star
  - Energy Star is a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. The program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions, making it easy to save money while protecting the environment for future generations. Energy Star delivers the technical information and tools that organizations and consumers need to choose energy-efficient solutions and the best management practices. Easy-to-use home and building assessment tools used to start down the path to greater efficiency and cost savings are also offered to homeowners and building managers. <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home.index>
- Green Building Alliance (GBA)
  - The Green Building Alliance is a non-profit organization that integrates environmentally responsible- and high performance- design, construction and operating practices in to the Greater Pittsburgh market. As a result, GBA will improve the health, economic, environmental and social value of new and existing

development. Visit their website to learn more about GBA services, green building basics, education events, case studies, surveys, and much more. <http://gbapgh.org/>

- Global Green USA
  - Global Green USA is a national environmental organization addressing three of the greatest challenges facing humanity: 1)stemming global climate change by creating green buildings and cities; 2)eliminating weapons of mass destruction that threaten lives and the environment; and 3) providing clean, safe drinking water for the 2.4 billion people who lack access to clean water. The organization educates hundreds of millions of people annually, leverages billions of dollars for environmental initiatives, and implements ground-breaking environmental policy. Visit their website to learn more about past and future accomplishments, recent publications, events, and learn how you can make financial contributions to support their programs in the US as well as other countries around the world. <http://globalgreen.org>
- The Healthy Building Network (HBN)
  - The Healthy Building Network works directly with municipal governments to create purchasing policies that avoid materials that are responsible for the worst environmental health impacts. While governments must protect the public health, they also must be efficient and effective with tax revenue. In the tension between these often opposing directives, HBN finds an opportunity by helping purchasing departments use their large scale purchasing power to drive down the cost for safer alternatives. This in turn makes these materials more available to all. Additionally, these market dynamics demonstrate private industry's ability to meet regulatory challenges with innovative solution that increase both economic and environmental vitality. This hybrid model is a win - win for everyone!  
[http://www.healthybuilding.net/municipal\\_purchasing.html](http://www.healthybuilding.net/municipal_purchasing.html)
- HUD Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH)
  - The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) is dedicated to accelerating the development and use of technologies that radically improve the quality, durability, energy efficiency, environmental performance, and affordability of America's housing. It can take 10 to 25 years for a new housing technology to achieve full market penetration; PATH looks at the issues and barriers related to technology development in the housing industry, and strives for viable cost-effective solutions. To learn more about PATH's tech practices, current projects, research activities, and other useful information, visit their website. <http://www.pathnet.org>
- Operation Fresh Start is a U.S. Department of Energy
  - This initiative aims to help communities apply the principles of sustainable development when recovering from natural disasters, as well as to use sustainable planning techniques in pre-disaster development. Their website provides background information to help you understand sustainable development and how this vibrant principle can be applied to strengthen your community's future. Resources include a selection of articles that present good overviews of sustainable development, as well as a list of top Web sites that offer additional information and resources.  
<http://freshstart.ncat.org/overview.htm>
- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
  - The National Association of Home Builders is a Washington, D.C. based trade association whose mission is to enhance the climate for housing and the building industry. Chief among NAHB's goals is providing and expanding opportunities for all consumers to have safe, decent and affordable housing. The NAHB sponsors the NAHB National Green Building Conference, the NAHB National Green Building Awards, and provides information on how to use sustainable design to build homes that use renewable materials prudently to conserve energy and environmental resources. NAHB creates new Green Building information regularly, so visit their website for more information: <http://www.nahb.org/page.aspx/category/sectionID=222>
- National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)
  - Since 1976 the National Center for Appropriate Technology has been serving economically disadvantaged people by providing information and access to appropriate technologies that can help improve their lives. NCAT projects have ranged from low-tech to high-tech, addressing complex issues of housing, economics,

and environmental quality. Weatherizing houses, training farmers, monitoring energy use, demonstrating renewable energy technology, testing new products and providing information on building construction are just a few of the many ways that NCAT has contributed to fostering healthy communities and a better quality of life for everyone. Visit their website to learn more about NCAT's sustainability efforts through programs that promote agricultural, rural, and community sustainability. Additionally, learn more about NCAT's current projects, its quarterly newsletter, and read success stories of NCAT's past projects. <http://www.ncat.org/>

- Rocky Mountain Institute
  - Rocky Mountain Institute is an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization that fosters the efficient and restorative use of resources to make the world secure, just, prosperous, and life-sustaining. They do this by inspiring business, civil society, and government to design integrative solutions that create true wealth. Our staff shows businesses, communities, individuals, and governments how to create more wealth and employment, protect and enhance natural and human capital, increase profit and competitive advantage, and enjoy many other benefits—largely by doing what they do far more efficiently. Visit their website to learn more about their “Areas of Impact,” education and outreach activities, and their seasonal newsletters. <http://rmi.org/>
  
- Smart Communities Network
  - The Smart Communities Network helps communities design and implement innovative strategies that enhance the local economy as well as the local environment and quality of life. Created by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, this comprehensive Web site offers an entire spectrum of information and resources related to sustainable community development, including articles; publications and manuals; model codes and ordinances; success stories; sustainable development bibliography; and a searchable database of some 1,000 organizations, agencies, and companies that work in the sustainable development arena. <http://www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/>
  
- State Environmental Resource Center (SERC)
  - The State Environmental Resource Center researches state environmental policies and assembles information and tools to help legislators make important decisions on key environmental issues. SERC stays on top of pressing environmental issues involving children's health, clean energy, smart growth, clean air and water, wildlife, wetlands, as well as environment-friendly architectural design methods. Information about state legislation that encourages ongoing innovation in the field of architecture so that new design techniques, which enhance comfort and safety while preserving resources, is offered on this website: <http://www.serconline.org/index.html>
  - <http://www.serconline.org/grBldg/index.html> This web site offers the tools necessary for you to introduce and pass legislation to promote green building in your state. These tools include three sample bills, talking points, press clips, a fact pack, links, and other background information.
  
- Sustainable Building Industry Council (SBIC)
  - The Sustainable Building Industry Council is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the design, affordability, energy performance, and environmental soundness of America's buildings. The organization teaches, values, and advocates a balanced, holistic approach to designing new buildings. The SBIC is mindful that constructing buildings that are "sustainable," "high performance," and "environmentally responsive" is kept in context with other equally important design objectives, such as aesthetics, accessibility, cost effectiveness, flexibility, high productivity, and security. Its members believe that all sustainable buildings must be low-energy, climate-responsive, use minimal fossil fuels and cleaner, renewable energy. Become a member today by visiting their website. There, you can also learn about their “whole building” approach, their “Sundial Project,” and workshops, conferences, and seminars that SBIC will be hosting, sponsoring, or attending. <http://sbicouncil.org/>
  
- Sustainable Communities Information
  - Sustainable Communities Information is a project of the Nova Scotia Environment and Development Coalition. At this site, you'll find useful information, tools, and resources on sustainable communities. The Sustainable Communities Information Databank, for example, offers organizational profiles as well as information on topics related to sustainability. Each topic includes tools, success stories, articles and other

information. You can also access Sustainable Maritimes Town Hall, an ongoing Internet discussion about sustainable communities. [http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/SCN/SCN\\_commlink.html](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/SCN/SCN_commlink.html)

- Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)
  - Developed by the Sustainable Communities Network Partnership, this site encourages the exchange of information to help make communities more livable and increases the visibility of successful community projects. A wide range of issues related to community sustainability are addressed, including: creating communities, smart growth, growing a sustainable economy, protecting natural resources, living sustainably, and governing community. Within these topics, you can locate case studies, resources, related Web sites, links to databases, events calendars, and suggested reading lists for specific subtopics. <http://www.sustainable.org/>

## **International Resources**

- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
  - IISD, a Canadian non-government organization, believes that sustainable development occurs where environmental integrity, economic efficiency, and the well-being of people meet. From this standpoint, its Web site discusses many issues related to sustainable development including the concept of sustainability, presents a chronology of sustainable development, and offers sustainable development principles from the perspectives of different groups. You'll also find a wide variety of additional information, such as calendar of events, information sources, and "Hot Topics," which features timely sustainable development-related information (and it's archived so you can access past months). <http://www.iisd.org/communities/>
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR)
  - ILSR is a nonprofit education and research organization that provides information and assistance on topics related to sustainable development. For more than 20 years, ILSR has worked with citizen groups, governments, and private companies to develop sustainable development policies. Visit this Web site and you'll find information about ILSR's activities, such as its Carbohydrate Energy Program and its work with Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a coalition of organizations striving for a sustainable energy policy in Minnesota. You'll also find information on technical and educational reports on a variety of topics, including sustainable development and sustainable energy policy. <http://www.ilsr.org/>