

# GREEN BUILDING... HABITAT STYLE

## MISSION

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles builds and renovates homes in partnership with God and people everywhere with a goal of eliminating substandard housing by making decent, affordable housing a matter of conscience and action in our communities.

## GREEN BUILDING DEFINED

The term "Green Building" is used by many and in diverse ways. We define it here as providing housing for people with methods, products and processes that lessen the detrimental impacts on the health of human and ecological environment.

## THE CORE ELEMENTS OF GREEN BUILDING

Habitat for Humanity is at the forefront of developing affordable housing that is also sustainable. In 2008 Habitat of Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (HFHGLA) completed 30 homes as part of the Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) employing Green Building practices. These homes are the first Habitat for Humanity homes in Southern California and the first JCWP homes to be awarded Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified status by Global Green.

Our **Green Building** practices include:

- Energy-efficient design, lighting, heating and cooling systems, and Energy Star® appliances
- Active solar technology
- Recyclable building materials, recycled carpets, environmentally friendly green siding, thermal pane windows and doors
- Low emission finishes – paints and varnish with low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds)
- Water-efficient toilets and showerheads
- Water filtration systems to minimize pollution from storm runoff
- Native drought-tolerant landscaping
- Recycled blown-in insulation and Dow foam insulation

HFHGLA is among a growing number of Habitat for Humanity affiliates that is incorporating Green Building elements that improve the affordability and sustainability for homeowners and the communities in which they live. We bring pragmatic aspects of affordable housing and Green Building to create tangible benefits like cost-savings and upkeep for families.

HFHGLA is building long-lasting partnerships with recognized leaders in Green Building to create sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for families now and in the future. Partners include: Building America, Department of Energy, Global Green, LEED Certification specialists, US Green Building Counsel, IBEW, Grid Alternatives, The Home Depot, Whirlpool and Dow Chemical.

Our Home Improvement Store and Housing Center for Excellence are excellent examples of our Green Building. The Home Improvement Store diverts millions of pounds away from area landfills and works with deconstruction companies and our Housing Center for Excellence is the hub of construction for HFHGLA and a regional center for innovation and education to develop, support, and advance best practices in new construction technologies and sustainable building.



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