

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

What constitutes a Green Building?

Sustainability isn't just a buzzword when it comes to condominiums. A Green Building is a structure that has been designed and built in a way that is environmentally responsible and resource efficient. This designation not only applies to the way a building is constructed, but also the maintenance throughout its life cycle. The design, construction process, materials, maintenance, renovation, and even the eventual demolition will take a sustainable approach.

Defining "Green"

Unlike buildings fabricated using traditional construction methods, a Green Building is engineered with a view to a decreased environmental impact, improving energy-efficiency, and minimizing ecological disruption. Instead of prioritizing convenience, time, and cost, greater emphasis is put on working with nature through site selection and integration with the local habitat.

Features To Look For

A Green Building uses renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines, as well as energy-efficient windows and smart energy management systems to reduce its impact on the environment. Built-in resource consumption minimization systems like low-flow toilets and faucets, rainwater collection, and grey-water repurposing all help to mitigate damage to the environment and reduce operating costs. These buildings invest in design and technology instead of using more traditional fossil fuels or electricity to generate power.

The buildings themselves tend to be constructed using durable materials that have been sustainably produced from – and with – renewable resources and have been locally sourced.

Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) is another key component that make a building "green". With our longer winters dictating more time spent indoors, it's important to ensure that air quality is as high as possible. A Green Building is constructed using low-emitting like non-toxic paints and formaldehyde-free materials and finishes.

In a more general sense, green buildings aim to mitigate environmental impact and create a healthier environment during construction, and throughout their lifespans. Building on previously developed sites rather than new ones and therefore closer to existing infrastructure also helps to reduce the environmental footprint.

Conclusion

When seeking a sustainable place to live, look for a building that is certified by one of the recognized Green Building Standards like LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) which focuses on over-all project sustainability, WELL which is primarily directed toward the factors affecting occupants' health and quality of life, or other local Green Building Programs.