



## **BENEFITS OF GREEN BUILDING**

Owners of green homes in Northeast Ohio can reap various benefits, including utility savings, improved indoor air quality and less overall maintenance. By building green, homeowners will also benefit the entire community. The voluntary guidelines can be tailored to the needs of interested home buyers during the building process. Green building practices examine the potential to save energy and reduce waste, both during and after construction.

## **THE GUIDELINES**

Although there is no one-size-fits-all approach to green building, the voluntary Northeast Ohio Green Building Initiative guidelines will provide green building tools including:

### ***Minimize Solar Heat Gain***

- Position the structure so the longest walls and most of the windows face north and south
- Position infrequently used rooms, such as storage spaces and service areas, on the west side to act as buffers from the sun

### ***Maximize Natural Light and Ventilation***

- Ensure that most rooms have windows on two walls
- Position windows for cross ventilation

### ***Create a Cool Shell***

- Use light colored surfaces for walls and roofing
- Choose metal, concrete or wood roofing, which absorb less heat than asphalt shingles

### ***Ensure Efficient Heating and Cooling***

- Install a programmable thermostat
- Install ceiling fans in major rooms

### *Use Efficient Appliances and Lights*

- Use Energy Star® rated appliances
- Install task lighting to reduce the need to light whole rooms

### *Choose “Green” Materials*

- Use renewable and sustainable lumber for framing, doors and flooring
- Use materials with recycled content (i.e. fly ash, slag, carpet, insulation, siding, roofing, flooring, countertops, outdoor decking)
- Use non-chemical, bio-based cleaning products

The NAHB model green building guidelines were developed by a stakeholder group of nearly 60 builders, environmentalists, government agencies and product manufacturers. A committee of dedicated builders and remodelers reviewed and modified the voluntary guidelines in an effort to provide Cleveland and North Coast builders with a tool kit for practical green building approaches applicable to the surrounding geographical and climatic region.

The Northeast Ohio Green Building Initiative will provide technical and marketing expertise to help local builders utilize the voluntary national guidelines and support the construction of green homes built across Northern Ohio. The organization is also working with representatives from both associations to implement a third-party verification process to ensure homes constructed as part of the program adhere to the guidelines outlined in the NAHB Model Green Home Building Guidelines.

For more information on the new Northeast Ohio Green Building Initiative or the NAHB Model Green Home Building Guidelines contact Nate Coffman of the HBA of Greater Cleveland at (216) 447-8700 or [ncoffman@hbacleveland.com](mailto:ncoffman@hbacleveland.com) or Rocco Fana, Jr. at the North Coast BIA at (440) 934-1090 or [rfanajr@northcoastbia.com](mailto:rfanajr@northcoastbia.com) .