

**NAHB** is the National Association of Home Builders who began a program in 2008 to educate, verify, and certify builders throughout the United States in **green** building. This program concentrates on water, energy and resource efficiency, lot and site development, indoor environmental quality, global impact, and homeowner education. Their site contains valuable information and great videos so check out [www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org).

**THE PASSIVE HOUSE** is another noteworthy concept in **green** building. It is the outgrowth of the super insulated buildings of the 1970s. This concept has been thoroughly studied and improved upon (mostly in Canada, Germany, and other parts of Europe) and is now making a comeback in the US. Last year, the Passive House Institute United States (**PHIUS**) was founded and is concentrating on both new construction and retrofitting of existing homes. A passive home features a super insulated building envelope, superior air tightness, whole house heat recovery ventilation, and passive solar gain. The Passive House does not require a conventional heating system. For more information, go to [www.passivehouse.us](http://www.passivehouse.us).



**We hope that after viewing these sites you will agree with us that ...**

**going green is not just eco-friendly, going green is energy smart!**

**Ask for a copy of our "Building Green ... what does it mean?" brochure for much more GREEN information.**

**Please visit our website at [www.TerrapinGreen.com](http://www.TerrapinGreen.com) to view our certified Passivhaus "to be built" offering.**

Biddeford's First Limited Conservation Development



Blandings Way Biddeford Maine

ECOFRIENDLY HOMESITES FOR ENERGY SMART LIVING

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**GOING GREEN ...  
what does it mean?**

Thanks to the participation and the cooperation among many public, private, non-profit, and governmental agencies, the **"going green"** movement is rapidly growing.



**Going green**, while new to some of us, has continuously evolved over the years as more people and newer technologies create a greater demand for it. Here, at **Terrapin Green**, we view it as our most effective tool to reach sustainability and energy independence.

**Going green** is the practice of maximizing the energy efficiency of our buildings and their sites while minimizing their impact on human health and our environment. The complete environmental footprint (from site, design, construction, and operation) to the whole building life cycle (its use, renovation, and re-use) needs to be considered.

While most of the focus in the past was on new commercial, industrial, and public buildings, our mission at **Terrapin Green** is to shift your attention and increase your awareness to building new **green** homes and/or **green** retrofitting of your existing home.

Surveys show that most people would like to reduce the environmental impact of their home and make it more energy efficient. Yet, many either don't know where to start, or are overwhelmed by the amount of information and new products now available. Some mistakenly think it is all just too expensive to really consider. At **Terrapin Green**, we have made it our goal to provide you with great resources to start you on your way to **going green!**



**Going green** can be as simple as designing your home with energy saving features and minimal environmental impacts. A **green** home

can look just like the home you live in now. The only, yet **big**, difference will be the products and appliances you choose, the amount of insulation you use, the types of eco-friendly materials that are now available to you. Listed here are a few of the organizations that provide valuable information and certification for homeowners interested in energy smart and sustainable products and practices.

**ENERGY STAR** is a program run by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy. It was launched in 1992 to rate the energy efficiency of



products and practices and to give the **ENERGY STAR** logo to those deserving that recognition. For your new home to be **ENERGY STAR**, it will be evaluated by an independent third party rater to make sure it has good insulation, high performance windows, tight construction and ducts, energy efficient cooling and heating systems, energy star appliances, lighting and water heaters. For more detailed information and a great link to Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

**LEED** stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. In 1998 the **US Green Building Council** created a rating system that focuses on eight main areas: sustainable sites, water efficiency, indoor air quality, materials and resources, location and linkage, energy and atmosphere, homeowner education, and the design process. Builders must get certified and the completed home must be inspected by a third party verifier in order for your new home to be **LEED** certified.

Check out their websites at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) and [www.maineusgbc.org](http://www.maineusgbc.org).



**ZERO ENERGY HOMES** is one more concept in **green** building. There is a website at [www.ZeroEnergy.com](http://www.ZeroEnergy.com) where you can find information on custom home designs and energy saving product performance.