

# Green Features- Definitions

**Active Solar Water Heater** – A water heating system in which heat from the sun is absorbed by collectors and transferred by pumps to a storage unit. The heated fluid in the storage unit conveys its heat to the domestic hot water of the house through a heat exchanger. Controls regulating the operation are needed.

**Passive Solar Water Heater** – A water heating system that does not require mechanical pumps or controls to create hot water for domestic use. There are several types available commercially.

**Energy Efficient Gas Water Heating** – To select an energy efficient gas water heater for the Green Builder Program, first add up in gallons what the most demand for hot water could be in one hour. Then identify models that list a peak hour demand equal to or greater than your demand. This information is listed in the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association's Consumer's Directory of Certified Efficiency ratings for Residential Heating and Water Heating Equipment, available at the appliance supplier's locations. From the models that meet the peak hour demand, make a final selection (using the directory) from those models with a .60 or greater Energy Factor and 80% or greater Recovery Efficiency.

**ENERGYSTAR** – A certification granted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy for household appliances and buildings that perform at specified levels of energy efficiency.

**Geothermal** – Energy extracted from the natural heat of the earth's rocks and fluids.

**Harvested Rainwater** – The rain that falls on a roof or yard and is channeled by gutters or channels to a storage tank. The first wash of water on a roof is usually discarded and the subsequent rainfall is captured for use if the system is being used for potable water. Good quality water is then available by this method.

**LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design** – a certification granted by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. LEED certified buildings often provide healthier work and living environments, which contributes to higher productivity and improved employee health and comfort. The USGBC has compiled a long list of benefits of implementing a LEED strategy which ranges from improving air and water quality to reducing solid waste, benefiting owners, occupiers, and society as a whole.

**Xeriscape** – The seven Xeriscape principles are: good planning and design, practical lawn areas, efficient irrigation, soil improvement, use of mulches, low water demand plants, and good maintenance.

**Energy Efficient Lighting** – Motion sensors and photo switches activate the exterior lights only when needed. Energy efficient bulbs and reflectors reduce the energy when lit in exterior and interior locations.