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WHAT IS A GREEN BUILDING?



Designations include:

- ▲ Florida Green Building Coalition's Development Designation Standard
- ▲ Florida Green Building Coalition's Home Designation Standard
- ▲ Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Green Building
- ▲ SPiRiT - LEED certification customized to meet the design and/or revitalization of military bases

▲ Green building is the practice of increasing the efficiency with which buildings and their sites use and harvest energy, water, and materials, and reducing building impacts on human health and the environment, through better siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal — the complete building life cycle.

▲ Green building is also sometimes known as sustainable building or environmental building, although there are slight differences in the definitions. The practice of green building can lead to benefits including reduced operating costs by increasing productivity and using less energy and water, improved public and occupant health due to improved indoor air quality, and reduced environmental impacts by, for example, lessening storm water runoff and the heat island effect.

▲ Green building is an essential component of the related concepts of sustainable design, sustainable development and general sustainability.

▲ Practitioners of green building often seek to achieve not only ecological but aesthetic harmony between a structure and its surrounding natural and built environment. The appearance and style of sustainable homes and buildings can be nearly indistinguishable from their less sustainable counter-parts.