

What is the REGREEN Program?

REGREEN is the nation's first set of resources and tools for green home remodeling projects. The REGREEN residential remodeling guidelines help make your home renovation project green, from installing a new dishwasher to remodeling your master bathroom to refurbishing an entire home interior. REGREEN addresses the major elements of any green renovation project, including the site of the home, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, material and resources, and indoor environmental quality. The guidelines blend product selection, building systems integration and proven technologies into a seamless compilation of green strategies and case studies for the homeowner, builder and design professional.

The REGREEN guidelines can be applied to a variety of home projects, from remodeling a kitchen to adding a major addition, from redoing a back yard to executing a gut rehab. Homeowners can either use the guidelines for their own do-it-yourself projects or visit with a professional who can apply REGREEN as a design guideline.

How was REGREEN developed?

The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Foundation and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) partnered on the development of guidelines and educational resources for green residential improvement projects. A technical committee comprised of a diverse group of industry experts developed the guidelines. The guidelines went through a public comment period with an opportunity for all interested parties and stakeholders to provide feedback.

How do I use the REGREEN guidelines?

The REGREEN guidelines are organized according to the 10 most common remodeling project types. The guidelines include: 1) remodeling projects described by scope, integrated pre-design issues, and environmental strategies for each of the home's systems, including plumbing, HVAC and electrical workings; 2) a library of strategies by environmental topic; and 3) case studies of successful green home renovations.

How is REGREEN different from USGBC's LEED for Homes certification program?

REGREEN is a set of remodeling guidelines for existing homes, whereas the LEED for Homes rating system is a certification program for the building, design and construction of a new home project. While new home projects can receive LEED for Homes certification, remodels and renovations are not certified under REGREEN.

What are the benefits of green remodeling?

Green homes are healthier places to live, are better for the environment and can save money. They have better air quality than non-green homes, cost less to operate and significantly decrease the negative impact of the home on the environment. Green homes are also an immediate and measurable way individuals can make a difference in the environment.

What are the costs of renovating a home using the REGREEN guidelines?

Renovating using the REGREEN guidelines doesn't have to cost more than any other typical home renovating project. In fact, both the inventory of environmentally friendly products and the number of contractors with green remodeling expertise are growing, driving the costs down significantly for green renovation projects. By using the strategies detailed in the REGREEN guidelines, homeowners and builders are able to make improvements to the home that yield significant money savings – from energy savings to reduced water bills, which will last over the lifetime of the home.

How can consumers find green products?

Visit the Green Home Guide (www.thegreenhomeguide.org) and the REGREEN Web site (www.regreenprogram.org) green product section that runs down a checklist of what makes a product green. REGREEN does not endorse any products.

What is the status of REGREEN?

It is available and ready for use. The draft of the REGREEN guidelines was open to public comment in the winter of 2007 and the final version of the guidelines was made public at INTERIORS '08: The ASID Conference on Design in New Orleans, La., in March 2008.

What REGREEN resources are available?

Learning programs will support the use of the guidelines and increase the adoption of green practices by residential design professionals, contractors, suppliers and consumers. These courses are both instructor-led and Web-based offerings.

Where can I find out more information?

To learn more about REGREEN, visit www.regreenprogram.org

Why was the REGREEN Program developed?

With an already vast interest in green remodeling and a large market of green products available, the REGREEN program addresses a niche in the marketplace for a set of thorough guidelines and resources for homeowners and builders looking to green their home improvement projects.