

Features and Benefits of LEED Homes

WHAT IS LEED?

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification program which provides third-party verification that a project was designed and built with sustainability in mind. LEED Homes feature:

- energy savings
- water efficiency
- carbon emissions reduction
- stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts
- enhanced indoor environmental quality

Eight categories are used to measure a homes' performance:

- site selection
- water efficiency
- materials and resources
- energy and atmosphere
- indoor environmental quality
- location and linkages
- awareness and education
- innovation

HOW ARE THE HOMES RATED?

A third-party "green rater" is hired to independently review documentation, energy model, and physically test the homes' performance compared to a reference home meeting the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code. Actual installed products and systems, blower-door testing, and on-site inspection are used to inform the model.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FEATURES AND BENEFITS?

- Energy modeling is used extensively to evaluate the effectiveness of potential improvements, and balance them to provide the most value for the dollar.
- Residents and building managers are trained to understand and operate the systems efficiently.
- O&M manuals are verified for completeness, so that nothing is lost in the transition from builder to residents and/or building managers.
- Provides third-party insurance that the home will realize significant energy and water-savings. (In the case of the Colorado State Veterans Center Domiciliary Renovations at Homelake, this means savings to State taxpayers.)
- Promotion by builders to suppliers of the demand for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood
- Improves indoor air quality.
- Provides a tracking mechanism for sustainable features.
- Gives resident assurance that the sustainable features were installed.
- Ensures that sustainability of materials is taken into consideration when purchasing decisions are being made.
- Promotes construction waste management by requiring contractors to track and report diversion rates.

For project specific features and benefits, please see the Colorado State Veterans Center Homelake Domiciliary Renovation case study [here](#).