

Tips For Building with Green Intention!

- 1. Understanding Ecosystem Impacts** - Consider the materials you use and what they take from the Earth through their life cycle. Look for renewables and/or materials that are long-lasting and if those aren't available, look for opportunities to reuse!
- 2. Calculate the Embodied Carbon** - These are emissions which result from harvest, manufacturing and transport. Find out what the level is on the products you are considering selecting, then pick wisely.
- 3. Assessing Ongoing Needs** - It is important to not only think about the impacts of your building project, but also the ongoing maintenance and possible ongoing energy and water needs.
- 4. Join the Red List Challenge** - Avoid this list of contaminants in the materials you build with to create a safe and healthy living environment:
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_List_building_materials#Living_Building_Challenge_Red_List
- 5. Energy Models** - Consider using an energy model to assess your energy needs. This will guide you towards the most efficient way to reach your goals for a new build or to identify opportunities for improvements in an existing retrofit, many online resources exist such as:
 - <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/home-energy-audits/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>
 - <https://www.zonengineering.com/>

Sources:

1. Wikipedia, retrieved November 3, 2020 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_List_building_materials#Living_Building_Challenge_Red_List
2. Energy.Gov, retrieved November 3, 2020 from: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/home-energy-audits/do-it-yourself-home-energy-audits>
3. Zon retrieved November 3, 2020 from: Engineering Inc., <https://www.zonengineering.com/>