

Why go Green:

Environmental Impacts of Buildings

- 65.2% of total U.S. electricity consumption
- 48% of total U.S. primary energy usage
- >30% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions
- 136 million tons of construction and demolition waste in the U.S. (approx. 2.8 lb/person/day)
- 12% of potable water in U.S.
- 40% (3 billion tons annually) of raw materials use globally

Data from USGBC and EPA

The Importance of Green Communities

- Healthier homes for parents and children.

Indoor Air Quality and Occupants' Health

**“More than 45 million children in the U.S. have asthma...
...40 percent due to residential exposures.”**

- National Center for Healthy Housing



“Environmentally attributable childhood diseases, including asthma, lead poisoning and cancer, cost our nation nearly \$55 billion annually.”

- National Center for Healthy Housing

“Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization in the United States.”

-Environmental Health Watch

The Importance of Green Communities

➤ Healthier homes for parents and children.

Physical Activity: Active Living by Design

“Lower income and minority communities ... have fewer parks, sports facilities, bike paths, pools and other places to be active.”

- Powell, L.M., Slater, S., & Chaloupka, F.J.
Evidence-Based Preventive Medicine



Low income households are more likely to be ...diagnosed with diabetes or asthma, to be obese and be at risk for health problems related to lack of exercise than people from households with incomes above \$50,000.”

-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Importance of Green Communities

➤ Increased income and enhanced opportunities for low-income families.

Long Term Affordability

“Low-income families will spend an average of 17% percent of their income on energy in 2006 ”

-Meg Power, "FY 2006 Energy Bills Forecast: The Impact on Low-Income Consumers”

High energy bills force low-income families to scrimp on food, child care, health care, and other essentials.

