

# Green Building Practices Overview

## The National Association of Home Builders National Green Building Standard (NGBS)

In 2007, the NAHB and the International Code Council (ICC) partnered to form a national consensus committee to establish a standard definition of green building. The resulting National Green Building Standard was approved in 2009 and includes standards for:

- Single and multifamily homes
- Residential remodeling projects
- Site development projects

The Green Building Standard can be used by a builder for individual projects, or serve as the basis for a local community or state green building program.

Points are awarded based on the environmental impact and efficiency of the building in seven categories:

- Lot design, preparation & development
- Resource efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency
- Indoor environmental
- Operation, maintenance & building owner education
- Additional points in any category

Within the water efficiency section, for example, the following points are awarded:

<b>Food waste disposer</b>	<b>1 point</b>
Energy Star dishwasher	2 points
Low-flow shower head	1 point each
Water efficient lavatory faucet	1 point each
Low-flow toilet	6 points each
Drip irrigation	4 points

**The installation of disposers contributes one point toward a project's certification and can be found in Chapter 8, section 801.3, Page 64.**

Food waste disposers were included because they reduce biodegradable waste put into trash, reducing waste sent to landfills where it would otherwise generate methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Instead, with a disposer, food waste is transported through sewers to the wastewater treatment plant where it can be converted into energy and recycled into fertilizer.

A minimum number of points in each of the seven categories are required to meet the standard threshold for bronze, silver, gold or emerald-levels.

## LEED for Homes

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) created The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System in 1994.

LEED is an accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. The program is voluntary.

LEED Rating Systems exist for 9 different programs, from commercial to healthcare.

The LEED for Homes rating system was introduced January, 2008. There are four levels of LEED certification:

- Certified
- Silver
- Gold
- Platinum

LEED for Homes tends to focus on siting and energy efficient construction, and less on interior finishing than does NAHB. Consequently, LEED for Homes neither gives nor detracts points for food waste disposer installation.