

green acronyms: **AC:** Alternating Current
BIPV: Building Integrated Photovoltaic
CFL: Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs
CFCs: Chlorofluorocarbons
CO2: Carbon Dioxide
CSA: Community Supported Agriculture
DC: Direct Current
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
EPS: Expanded Polystyrene
ERV: Energy Recovery Ventilator
EV: Electric Vehicle
FSC: Forest Stewardship Council
GPM: Gallons Per Minute
H2V: Hydrogen Vehicle
HRV: Heat Recovery Ventilator
HVAC: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
IAQ: Indoor Air Quality
IEQ: Indoor Environmental Quality
ICF: Insulated Concrete Forms
LCA: Life Cycle Assessment
LED: Light Emitting Diode
LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LEED AP: LEED Accredited Professional
Low-E: Low Emissivity
NGV: Natural Gas Vehicle
PCR: Post Consumer Recycled
PCW: Post Consumer Waste
PV: Photovoltaic
RCA: Recycled Concrete Aggregate
SIP: Structural Insulated Panel
USGBC: United States Green Building Council
VOC: Volatile Organic Compound

Sustainability:

"to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (UN General Assembly, 1987).

a quick listing of
Eco-terms
& **Acronyms**

Green:

a term used to distinguish a product, practice, policy or ideology that promotes environmental protection, natural resource conservation, human health, regionalism, and social responsibility.



402 S Sycamore St
Greensburg, Kansas 67054
620 . 723 . 2790

www.greensburggreentown.org



Biodegradable: capable of being broken down into innocuous products by the action of living things.

Bioswales ,Bioretention Ponds or Rain garden: use plants and soils to infiltrate and treat stormwater runoff. These systems can also dramatically reduce pollutants and contaminants in an effort to increase water quality.

Building Envelope: the exterior surface of a building's construction – the walls, windows, roof and floor.

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs): An alternative to incandescent light bulbs, which lose 90% of their energy to heat, CFLs use 1/5 to 1/4 of the energy and last up to ten times longer.

Conditioned Space: the space of a building that is controllably heated or cooled, or both, for the comfort of occupants. It takes energy and money to condition spaces so increasing efficiency reduces cost.

Daylighting: the controlled admission of natural light into a space through glazing with the intent of reducing or eliminating electric lighting.

Drip Irrigation: a high-efficiency irrigation method in which water is delivered at low pressure through buried mains and sub-mains (from the sub-mains, water is distributed to the soil from a network of perforated tubes or emitters)

Dual-Flush Toilet: a high-efficiency toilet that gives users the choice of flushing with the maximum amount of water allowed by law (1.6 gpf in the United States) or less water for liquid only waste.

Energy Efficiency: using less energy to provide the same level of energy service.

ENERGY STAR®: a joint program of the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy; also a label which serves as the trusted national symbol for environmental protection through superior energy efficiency. <http://www.energystar.gov/>

Geothermal Heating & Cooling: uses the relatively constant temperature of the earth to heat and cool homes and businesses with 40% to 70% less energy than conventional systems. While conventional furnaces and boilers burn a fuel to generate heat, geothermal heat pumps use electricity to simply move heat from the earth into buildings, allowing much higher efficiencies.

Grey Water: untreated household wastewater that has not come into contact with toilet waste - includes used water from bathtubs, showers, bathroom wash basins, and water from clothes washers (does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks or dishwashers); can be used in some areas, depending on local code regulations, to irrigate landscaping or flush toilets and help reduce potable water use.

Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV): a device that brings fresh, outside air into a building while simultaneously exhausting stale indoor air outside. In the process of doing this, an HRV removes heat from the exhaust air and transfers it to the incoming air, pre-heating it.

Hybrid (Vehicles): a vehicle with more than one power source such as a small internal combustion engine and an electric motor.

Insulated Concrete Form (ICF): hollow insulated forms, usually

made from expanded polystyrene (EPS), used for building walls (foundation and above-ground); after stacking and stabilizing the forms, the aligned cores are filled with concrete, which provides the wall structure.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ): indoor air that contains no known contaminants at harmful concentrations and with which a substantial majority of the people exposed to the air do not express dissatisfaction.

Infiltration: is the unintentional or accidental introduction of outside air into a building, typically through cracks in the building envelope and through use of doors for passage[1]. Infiltration is sometimes called air leakage. The leakage of room air out of a building, intentionally or not, is called exfiltration.

Kilowatt (kW): a unit of energy equal to one thousand watts. An incandescent light bulb is typically 60 watts; leave it on for an hour you have used 60 watt hours, or .06 kWh.

Kilowatt Hours (kWh): the product of power in kilowatts multiplied by time in hours; not kilowatts per hour. This is what you pay for when you buy energy from the local utility company. Greensburg pays 12 cents per kWh.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED): a green building rating system created and administered by the USGBC to promote a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, material selection and indoor air quality.

LEED Accredited Professional (AP): accreditation that recognizes building professionals who have the knowledge and skills to successfully steward the integrated design and LEED certification process.

Lifecycle Cost: cost of ownership, including purchase price and cost of operation.

Low-emissivity (Low-E): special coatings that reflect infrared light, keeping heat inside in winter and outside in the summer (typically applied to windows).

Low-Flow: refers to plumbing fixtures including faucets, toilets and showerheads that use less water than a conventional fixtures conserving water and energy used to heat the water.

Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV): an alternative fuel vehicle that uses compressed natural gas (CNG) or, less commonly, liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a clean alternative to other automobile fuels.

Off-gassing: the emission of volatile organic compounds from synthetic and natural products.

Pervious (surfaces): surfaces that limit disruption of natural hydrology by allowing moisture to pass through and soak into the earth thereby increasing infiltration and managing stormwater runoff.

Photovoltaic (PV): the field of technology and research related to the application of solar cells for energy by converting sunlight directly into electricity.

Pre-consumer: Contains material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process (e.g. sawdust, wood chips, sunflower seed hulls, newspaper print overruns).

Post-consumer: A term used to describe material that is being

reused/recycled after it has been in the consumer's hands (eg, a newspaper going back to the paper mill to be recycled into new recycled content paper products).

R-value: a measure of thermal resistance (typically applied to insulation: the higher the R-value, the better the insulating effectiveness of the product).

Rapidly Renewable (materials): material considered to be an agricultural product, both fiber and animal, that takes 10 years or less to grow or raise, and to harvest in an ongoing and sustainable fashion.

Reclaimed Material: building components that have been recovered from a demolition site and are reused in their original state.

Recycled Content: contains 25% or more of material that would otherwise be considered waste and placed in a landfill, either post-consumer or pre-consumer material, or a combination of the two.

Regionally Produced: products that are manufactured nearby the region where their end-use will occur (most green building programs consider "nearby" as being within a radius of 500 miles); the use of which supports indigenous resources and reduces the environmental impacts resulting from transportation.

Salvaged (material): material that is recovered from existing buildings or construction sites and reused in other buildings.

Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs): high performance building panels used in floors, walls, and roofs for residential and light commercial buildings. The panels are typically made by sandwiching a core of rigid foam plastic insulation between two structural skins of OSB.

Stormwater Runoff: water volumes that are created during rain storms that flow over surfaces into sewer systems or receiving waters.

U-factor/U-value: measures how well a product prevents heat from escaping (inverse of R-value); expressed as a number between 0 and 1 (the lower the U-value, the greater a product's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating value).

United States Green Building Council (USGBC): a 501(c)(3) non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation. <http://www.usgbc.org/>

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): carbon compounds that emit as gases from certain solids or liquids and include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects; concentrations are up to ten times higher than outdoors and often found in paints, pesticides, bonding agents and cleaning supplies.

Weatherization: the practice of protecting a building and its interior from the elements, particularly from sunlight, precipitation, and wind, and of modifying a building to reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency.

Xeriscaping and xerogardening: landscaping and gardening in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental irrigation. Plants whose natural requirements are appropriate to the local climate are emphasized, and care is taken to avoid losing water to evaporation and run-off.