

## **Green Building Resources for Homeowners**

The Sudbury Housing Trust supports the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Sudbury for the benefit of low and moderate income households. The Trust also promotes housing that is durable, energy efficient and healthy because of the short and long-term benefits to residents, their utility bills and the environment. To that end, the below resources have been compiled to help homeowners considering repairs or renovations to learn more about sustainable building practices, materials and equipment as well as financial rebate and incentive programs available to Massachusetts residents.

The list is provided as an educational resource for reference only. Homeowners are responsible for securing any required permits prior to starting work and are advised to engage licensed building professionals. The below green building resources are organized into general information, energy efficiency/savings, and healthy materials. The list is a work in progress - any comments and suggestions can be addressed to [housingtrust@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:housingtrust@sudbury.ma.us).

### **General Information**

- <https://www.greenhomeguide.com/know-how/article/green-homes-101> A brief overview of why owning or renting a green home is good for your health, your wallet and our environment. While the site is focused on a specific rating system, it also contains generally useful articles for homeowners looking to make green improvements.
- <https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/home-and-health/> General overview of the main components of green and healthy homes, common hazards, and FAQ's.
- <https://www.buildingscience.com/about-us> A free online resource for building science information related to the design and construction of buildings that are healthier, less energy-consuming, and more durable and economical. They have a wealth of articles and videos organized by common topics of interest.
- <https://www.energyvanguard.com/blog/> A free blog covering building science, heating & air conditioning, energy efficiency, and home energy audits.
- <https://www.greenbuilt.org/resources/videos/> A comprehensive video collection about best practices in green building to be used as an educational resource for homeowners, building professionals and students. Also, their [homeowner resources](#) include useful links about efficient water fixtures, appliances and lighting.
- <https://www.buildshownetwork.com/> A large collection of videos aimed at helping people build quality homes that will stand the test of time. Some show how buildings and/or specific features were constructed, while others are either informative or inspirational.

- <https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/> Articles and videos that cover all the elements relating to green basics and zero or near-zero energy homes. Some articles and access to details require a membership (or free trial); other articles are available for free.

## Energy Efficiency & Savings

- <https://www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates> Mass Save offers **rebates** and **incentives** to homeowners, renters, and landlords for appliances, heating systems, weatherization and more. No-Cost Home Energy Assessments for Homeowners are also available at this [Link](#).
- <https://www.energystar.gov/> ENERGY STAR® is a government-backed symbol for energy efficiency, and the website provides information on products and home improvements to save energy, as well as a free [Home Advisor tool](#) to get customized recommendations.
- <https://zeroenergyproject.org/renovate/> Highlights information about reducing carbon emissions and cutting energy bills. They also share a multitude of realistic ways to achieve the goal of positive energy homes (which produce more energy than they use).
- <https://www.attainablehome.com/homeownership/> Affordable and sustainable building blog with a focus on available financial tools, an understanding of economic systems, and homeownership wealth-building strategies to go green.
- <https://pvwatts.nrel.gov/index.php> Estimates the energy production and cost of photovoltaic (PV) solar energy installations.

## Healthier Home

- <https://homes.forhealth.org/36-expert-tips-for-a-healthier-home/> This report outlines 36 expert tips that can be implemented to make your home healthier.
- <https://greensciencepolicy.org/resources/consumer-resources/> This page contains information on what you can do at home and when you shop to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals.
- <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice> An EPA resource that helps consumers, businesses, and purchasers find products that are safer for human health and the environment.
- <https://pharosproject.net/> Pharos provides hazard, use, and exposure information on 138,006 chemicals and 179 different kinds of building products.
- <https://buildingclean.org/> Information on where products are made and the content.