



Top Green

Terms Explained

Understanding the terminology in green real estate can be a challenge. Use this quick guide of some top terms to cut through the noise and keep you clear and informed on your real estate journey!



ACTIVE DESIGN

Design strategies that encourage physical activity and health, such as walking or biking, through building layouts, features, and facilities.

BIOPHILIC DESIGN

An architectural and design approach that connects people with nature, incorporating elements like plants, water features, and natural lighting to enhance well-being.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

The total amount of greenhouse gases emitted by a building or activity, typically measured in tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The ability of a building, community, or area to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The goal of reducing energy consumption by using less energy to perform the same tasks, such as improving insulation and using energy-efficient appliances.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY:

Heat energy from rocks, earth, water, or steam underground. Geothermal energy is a source of clean energy for homes.

GREEN BUILDING:

A building designed, constructed, and operated to minimize its environmental impact.

NET ZERO ENERGY

A net zero energy building produces as much energy as it consumes. This doesn't mean the building is off the grid, just that energy use is balanced by energy production.

RETROFIT

Upgrading an existing building to improve its sustainability performance with energy-efficient systems, better insulation, or renewable energy features.

SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY

Technology that enables homeowners to control various systems remotely or automatically for efficiency and to make the property more environmentally friendly.