



Locally Sourced Building Materials

How they help:

Locally Sourced Building Materials, such as lumber and rock, require less fossil fuels to transport as they are harvested and manufactured nearby. Using Locally Sourced Building Materials can also help businesses in your town or neighboring towns.



Solar Panels

How they help:

Solar Panels generate energy directly from the sun without emitting carbon dioxide (CO₂) like conventional fossil fuel energy sources (oil, coal, and natural gas). This leads to less CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere.



Wind Turbines

How they help:

Wind Turbines generate energy from the wind, without emitting carbon dioxide (CO₂) like fossil fuel energy sources (oil, coal, and natural gas). This leads to less CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere.



Green Roofs

How they help:

Green Roofs may act as insulation for a building, reduce rainwater runoff, and absorb heat trapping gases such as CO₂.



Water Cistern

How they help:

A Water Cistern collects rainwater to be used for landscaping and even flushing toilets, saving water that has to be piped to and purchased by a building.



Windows

How they help:

Properly insulated windows facing in the correct direction reduce the energy needed for light in a building, by replacing man-made light with natural light.



Recycled Building Materials

How they help:

Using Recycled Building Materials (such as those in interior walls, carpets, and flooring) reduces the amount of new materials that must be made. This can reduce the amount of fossil fuels burned in the creation of new materials and the amount of heat trapping gases emitted to the atmosphere.



Wood Pellet Furnace

How they help:

A Wood Pellet Furnace can reduce the need for fossil fuels (like oil and natural gas) for heating and in many cases are more efficient than simply burning wood. Pellets may also be made by wood waste generated in logging or at sawmills.



Eco Pavers

How they help:

Eco Pavers last longer and are more permeable than traditional pavement, allowing more water through them into the ground. Additionally, the presence of plants and lighter color can keep them cooler than traditional asphalt on warm sunny days.



Compost (Food Waste)

How they help:

Composting food waste limits the amount of waste that ends up in the trash and in landfills, and returns nutrients (such as nitrogen) to the soil.



Composting Toilets

How they help:

Composting toilets use bacteria and fungi to break down waste and are zero-flush. They can save 1,000s of gallons of water each year.