

Energy-Efficient Remodeling

Why we care

Conserving energy in our homes is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels. Remodeling offers an opportunity to make changes that can help protect the environment.

Simple, positive steps

Feeling cramped? Hire a designer to help you maximize space. Is space going unused? Convert part of a larger home to an ADU. Or, move into energy-efficient attached or multifamily housing.

Review [Regreen Residential Remodeling Guidelines](#) before talking to a contractor.

Incorporate energy-saving measures:

- Seal air leaks, and add insulation. Install double glazed/low-E windows.
- Incorporate natural cooling systems, such as shading or a whole-house fan.
- Avoid recessed light fixtures, which cause heated air to leak into the attic.
- Upgrade to high-efficiency appliances, including exhaust fans.
- Rework ductwork, running it inside the home rather than crawl space or garage.
- Consider a heat pump, a heat zoning system, and/or sensors to turn off lights.

Use direct solar for energy or heating water.

Save water by installing dual flush toilets, high efficiency showerheads, and water efficient appliances.

Salvage building materials for reuse, such as flooring, doors and windows, tubs and sinks, cabinets, electrical and plumbing fixtures, and lumber. See Boneyard NW.

Choose materials wisely.

- Avoid vinyl or particleboard with formaldehyde.
- Ask for FSC certified wood.
- Select rapidly renewable materials, such as cork, linoleum, wool carpet or strawboard cabinets.
- Use recycled-content ceramic tile, carpet, and dry wall.
- Select materials that are durable and low maintenance, such as a metal or forty-year asphalt composition roofs.