



# Residential Energy Efficiency Project

A project of Waterloo Region Green Solutions

*Working together for healthier homes and sustainable communities.*

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## Green Builders for New Construction Resource Sheet

Waterloo Region Green Solutions and the Residential Energy Efficiency Project (REEP - Waterloo Region) encourage the use of “green” and “sustainable” building practices. If you are looking to build a new home or undergo major renovations, this resource sheet is for you - with tips and information on selecting architects, builders, and consultants/engineers! General information on hiring a contractor can be found on the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s website at <[www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca)> in a publication called “Hiring a Contractor”. REEP recommends getting at least three quotes for the work to be done whenever possible, and getting a written contract from the chosen contractor to ensure that you will be getting affordable and quality work.

### Architects

Architects that incorporate “green” or “sustainable” building practices in their work can be located by searching local directories using the following terms: **Architects; Landscape Contractors & Designers; Management Consultants;** and **Urban, Regional & Rural Planners.**

If you are looking to hire a “green” architect in particular, the following words and phrases generally indicate that the architectural firm offers environmentally friendly and sustainable building options: **green design/construction/renovation, environmentally friendly building techniques, healthy home consultation, indoor air quality, efficient lighting systems, and/or energy efficiency.**

### Builders

If you are looking for a contractor to build a new home or upgrade or renovate your existing home, many companies are available to do the work. Home builders that incorporate “green” or “sustainable” building practices in their work can be located by searching local directories using the following search terms: **Building Contractors; Contractors - General;** and **Heating Contractors.** Some “green” builders are accustomed to working with **sustainable building designs**, while some focus more on the **reuse of building materials** or the use of **environmentally friendly building materials.** Take the time to research your options and select the best contractor for the job you are looking to complete.

### Consultants/Engineers

To locate a consulting or engineering firm that specializes in “green” or “sustainable” building practices, search local directories using the following search terms: **Engineers; Engineers - Consulting; Environmental Consultants & Services;** and **Energy Consultants & Management.** Some consulting/engineering firms are very specialized, while others offer more general services. If you are interested in a particular aspect of “green” buildings, chances are there’s a firm out there that will be able to meet your needs.

### Green Building Groups, Associations & Certification

A number of organizations exist in Waterloo Region and across the country to help support “green” and “sustainable” building practices. Here are a few that are active in Waterloo Region:

1. **CREW (Community Renewable Energy Waterloo):** This volunteer citizens’ network connects renewable energy interest with knowledge and experience. See their latest newsletter at <[www.crewzone.ca](http://www.crewzone.ca)> for upcoming events and more information.
2. **Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC):** The CaGBC is in the process of developing a “LEED™-H” standard (“H” for homes) to encourage “green” building in the residential sector. Visit <[www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org)> for more details.
3. **Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC):** The SBC supports and promotes sustainable building concepts and practices from design through to implementation and operation. Visit their website at <[www.sbcCanada.org/](http://www.sbcCanada.org/)>.
4. **LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Canada:** LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high performance, sustainable buildings. See the CaGBC website for more information.

### Great Examples - Local & Beyond

- **Terra Construction**, Mike Jones, New Dundee: <http://terraconstruction.blogspot.com/>
- **Grand House Co-op**, Cambridge: <http://www.wacsa.org/grandhouse/>
- **Everdale**, Hillsburgh: <http://www.everdale.org/>
- **Ecology Action Centre**, Halifax: [www.ecologyaction.ca/](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/)