

CBIA GREEN BUILDING AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The California Building Industry Association (CBIA) firmly believes in the use and implementation of green building and sustainability practices because they add value and benefit to new homes, consume less energy and resources, and improve the environmental quality of our communities.

As the voice of the residential building community in the State, CBIA is actively involved in evaluating and promoting performance strategies and programs that enhance energy efficiency and water conservation. We believe that all green building and sustainability standards should be based on sound science and empirical data, and that the benefits must be quantifiable. By focusing our efforts on implementing sound policies and proven new construction technologies, the members of CBIA are making a positive impact on the sustainability of our communities for future generations.

CBIA recognizes that existing residential and commercial structures built before 1990 are significantly less energy and resource efficient than contemporary buildings. CBIA also believes that substantial resource conservation and environmental benefits can be achieved by retrofitting these structures to improve their efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint.

Our Association strongly supports the California Residential Green Building Standards developed by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and adopted by the California Building Standards Commission (BSC). Green building standards are important public policy and should be subjected to a thorough public policy review and approval process. Such a process must include the building and development community in order to fully evaluate and assure the success of any proposed green building standards.

To achieve greater Green Building efficiencies which exceed the mandatory levels prescribed by HCD, CBIA supports the voluntary use of two non-governmental residential Green Building programs:

- The California Green Builder Program (CGB) developed and administered by ConSol, Inc, and
- The Green Point Rated program developed and administered by Build It Green.

By encouraging the use and implementation of these voluntary programs, the builders of CBIA are accelerating the environmental benefit derived from sustainable building practices. At the same time, CBIA is mindful that mandatory use of these programs in ways not intended by the administrators of the programs can actually be counterproductive and result in excessive costs for a marginal return. For this reason, mandatory green building standards that change building codes must be subject to California's code approval process.

CBIA will actively engage its' membership in the ever evolving field of resource and energy conservation, and continue to seek ways to work with HCD, BSC, and other stakeholders, to further the sustainability goals of the State.