



# Build Green NH Newsletter

[www.buildgreennh.com](http://www.buildgreennh.com)

January 2010

*Our mission is to promote, educate and support the practice of green building and remodeling in New Hampshire by creating a meaningful yet flexible standard for building and remodeling techniques and materials.*

## In This Newsletter:

- Energy Efficiency Loans and Grants
- A Message From The Chair of Build Green NH
- Sorting Through Green Building Fog
- Green Building and Fair Advertising
- The Green Economy
- How To Pick The Best Eco-Builder
- Did you miss the Home Energy Conference?

## Back Issues:

- [November 2009](#)
- [December 2009](#)



[Click Here](#)

## Upcoming Events

Page 3

Courses, Testing, Trade Shows

## Green Resources

Page 3

Websites, Organizations

## Job Opportunities

### Immediate openings for Weatherization Technicians.

Rapidly growing company is seeking field staff to implement weatherization measures in residential homes throughout NH. Work will largely consist of air sealing. Applicant must be BPI certified, self motivated, have reliable transportation, and be available full time. This is a great opportunity to enter an industry that offers great growth opportunities.

Please fax or email resume, cover letter & references to:

Joseph Bates, Next Step Living Inc.

Fax: 603-601-6005

Email: [joseph.bates@nextsteplivinginc.com](mailto:joseph.bates@nextsteplivinginc.com)



[Click Here](#)

for more information

Are you planning to have a booth at the 43rd annual NH Home Show??? If so, paid exhibitors are invited to offer educational sessions to consumers that last 20-40 minutes presenting green building solutions in one of the classrooms adjacent to the exhibit hall.

What a great way to educate the public about your "Green" product or service! Interested???? Contact Dave Bowman [dbowman@hbranh.com](mailto:dbowman@hbranh.com) 603-228-0351

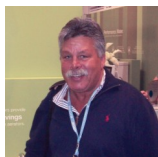


## Advance Notice of 2010 Program

### Energy Efficiency Loans and Grants Available to Businesses

Businesses and non-profit organizations of all sizes throughout the state will have access to borrow low-interest funds, or in some cases receive funds as grants, to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings and/or processes, as well as add renewable energy systems to their facilities. Recovery Act funding in the amount of \$3.5 million has been contracted with the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) to implement and oversee this program. CDFA will work with businesses to create a revolving loan fund that will continue funding similar projects long after the Recovery Act ends. Collaborating with partners-the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, the New Hampshire Business Finance Authority, the Retail Merchants Association and The Jordan Institute-CDFA will launch the program in early 2010.

Please contact Laura Richardson at OEP, 603/271-6092, [laura.richardson@nh.gov](mailto:laura.richardson@nh.gov) or Sarah DiSano at CDFA, 603/717-9127, [sdisano@nhcdfa.org](mailto:sdisano@nhcdfa.org).



## Dear BGNH Council Members & Others:

By Rick Bouchard, Chair Build Green NH Program & Council

Wishing everyone a 2010 filled with great happiness, health and hope! May you continue to find success in the green field. Here are a few things happening with the BGNH Program & Council.

We are working on our long term strategic plan. Thank you for those who turned out and participated on Dec. 16. Look forward to continuing and implementing our mission and plan. We ask for others to get involved in our many opportunities. We are in need of help in the following: Sub committees, education, membership, public relations, legislation are in need of additional members. Get involved, we need the help. Contact me to discuss details.



*continued on Page 2...*



The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire is one of the state's largest trade associations, employing over 60,000 citizens, involved in all aspects of the building industry.

The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire is dedicated to the evolution and continued growth of the building industry, to provide affordable housing for all income levels, and to build a positive image for the building industry.

The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), located in Washington, DC ([www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org)).

[Click Here to Join Build Green NH](#)

Build Green NH Jan-2010 — Page 1

...continued from Page 1

Everyone is invited at any Steering Committee meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 3-5pm at State Office. The current positions will be open for nominations in September with Elections in October 2010 at BGNH Council Meeting. Attend an upcoming BGNH Council Meeting. Get up to date information on Green banking, real estate and appraising issues, check schedules. Have you checked out the website? <http://www.buildgreennh.com>

As we grow and go forward, I ask for your help. Let someone know about GREEN. Spread the word to industry professionals and ask them to join BGNH!. [Become a sponsor](#) in the BGNH program. Help everyone understand the value of Green Building, Construction and Remodeling. We Dream Green.

Rick Bouchard, CGR, CAPS, CGP, is the Chairman of Build Green NH and the President of Queen City Remodeling (QCR) Company. Phone: 603-644-2122 [rick@queencityremodeling.com](mailto:rick@queencityremodeling.com)



## A Verifier's View...

By Rob Pickett, RobPickett & Associates

A relative late-comer to the green building movement, I have been participating in the residential green building arena since 2007 – as a representative of the Log Homes Council in the NAHB-ICC Committee work to develop ICC700 National Green Building Standard, as a member of the Build Green NH Council Steering Committee, as one of the first NAHB Research Center Accredited Verifiers in New England, and as a CGP. I've had a long relationship with the Building Systems Councils of NAHB and as a member of NAHB and HBRANH, so it only made sense to become immersed in the NAHB Green Building Program (GBP). And with experience with quality control programs and as an independent 3<sup>rd</sup>-party inspector for the Log Homes Council Log Grading Program, investing in becoming an accredited verifier was a natural progression.



When asked the question about green building programs, I explain that I turned to the program developed by NAHB for homebuilders. I further explain that learning the meaning of green building under one program will provide an equivalent knowledge to the other programs. Except for the process, this has held true. Based on ICC700, the GBP puts the primary responsibility on the builder to select and apply green building



principles and products. Then, as noted at [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org),

*"Verifiers accredited by the NAHB Research Center for National Green Building Certification are expected to independently confirm, through a process of document review and on-site inspections that all green program requirements and points specified by a builder are in place for a candidate home."*

Sounds easy, right? I believe that organizations that can commit a designer, estimator, or other person to green building specifications and practices, it is. But for companies where one person wears all the hats, committing the necessary resources to becoming a green builder is difficult. The builder is required to register the project on the NAHB Green Building site, use the Online Scoring Tool to claim points toward green certification, contract with a Verifier to complete the Rough and Final inspections, and is required to keep all the documentation provided as a part of the inspection process. Getting started appears to be an ominous task, but some steps can make it a bit easier.



Becoming a Certified Green Professional (CGP) is a great first step. The GBP does not require the builder to be a CGP, and for that matter it does not require the builder to be a member of NAHB (although it will cost more). Understanding the principles of green building will definitely reduce the time required to complete the Online Scoring Tool, but one suggestion is to enter the specifications from the most recent project – score the project exactly as built. Did it satisfy a certification level? If not, start looking at options to improve the Online Score. Save this project as a template and make the simple changes – select products that are Green Approved, commit to all applicable Energy Star® (can exceed 49 pts.), WaterSense® (up to 41 pts.), GreenGuard (15-18 pts.), and Indoor AirPlus certified products. Without adding significant upgrades or expense, it is very likely that a Bronze certification can be achieved. Make this the base standard green specification and upgrade at the customer's request to attain greater performance and higher levels of certification. This approach allows builders to respond to energy efficiency measures while incorporating sustainable practices for all projects.



Rob Pickett, CGP, is an Accredited Verifier for the NAHB Green Building Program, is the Treasurer of Build Green NH Council Steering Committee, provides technical consulting services to the building systems industry and is the VT-WNH District Sales Manager for Epoch Homes. Phone: 802-436-1325 [robpickett@vermontel.net](mailto:robpickett@vermontel.net), [www.robpickettandassoc.com](http://www.robpickettandassoc.com)

## Upcoming Events:



- 1/8/2010—2/12/2010 (Class)  
2/15/2010—2/19/2010 (2hr Scheduled Test)  
**BPI—Become A Certified Energy Auditor**  
[Course Information](#)

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- 1/12/2010—Commercial, 8:30AM—3:30PM
- 1/14/2010—Residential, 8:30AM—3:30PM  
**Going Beyond NH Energy Code Workshops**  
Plymouth State University, Plymouth NH  
[About Workshops](#)  
[Register for Event\(s\)](#)  
[Directions to Plymouth State University](#)

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- 1/12/2010, 3—5PM  
**BGNH Steering Committee**  
HBRANH  
[Registration](#)

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- 1/19/2010—1/22/2010  
**International Builders' Show**  
Central Hall, Las Vegas, NV  
[Events Information](#)  
[Exhibitors](#)  
[Registration](#)  
NAHB "Green Day" / Happy Hour

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- 1/19/2010, 1/26/2010, 2/2/2010, 2—4PM  
**USDA Rural Development Community Facility Loans & Grants**  
[Keene information session, 1/19/2010](#)  
[Portsmouth information session, 1/26/2010](#)  
[Concord information session, 2/2/2010](#)

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- 1/19/2010, 3—5PM  
**Build Green NH Monthly Meeting:** Green Banking Programs and Green Real Estate Programs  
The Housing Center—Concord, NH  
[Meeting Information](#)

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- 1/26/2010, 8AM—4PM  
**Business Management for Building Professionals**  
The Housing Center—Concord, NH  
[Course Information](#)  
[Online Registration](#)

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- 1/27/2010—1/28/2010, 8AM—4PM each day  
**Green Building for Building Professionals**  
The Housing Center—Concord, NH  
[Course Information](#)  
[Online Registration](#)

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- 1/28/2010, 3/11/2010, 4/22/2010  
**Energy Education Series**  
Durham, Seabrook and Lakes Region  
[Program Information](#)

## Coming Soon:

- 2/2/2010  
**EPA Certification Course—Lead Paint Safety**  
HBRANH  
[Course Information](#)  
[Registration](#)
- 3/5/2010—3/7/2010: [43rd annual NH State Home Show](#)
- 3/15/2010—3/16/2010  
**Advanced Green Building—Building Science**  
Instructor Peter Yost  
Check [www.hbranh.com](http://www.hbranh.com) mid January 2010 for registration details.
- April 2010: [Energy Code Workshops](#), watch for details
- 5/16/2010—5/18/2010  
[NAHB National Green Building Conference](#)

## Green Building Resources:



- **Button Up NH—[Winter Workshop Schedule](#)**  
Evening workshops are conducted by qualified home energy experts who will introduce homeowner-participants to the basics of home energy budgets and the value of home weatherization. Each workshop will include information on how simple household adjustments and modest investments can lead to significant energy savings. Workshop topics will include: residential heat use and loss, the short term benefits of simple do-it-yourself weatherization, the value of a professional home energy audit, the long term benefits of extensive professional energy retrofits, and the technical and financial resources available to make it happen.
- **Clean Air Cool Planet Newsletter—[The Cool Current](#)** Climate Change News From The Northeast  

- **EPA—[Community Energy Challenge Monthly Update](#)**, December 2009, Volume 14  

- **EPA Video—["Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In."](#)**  
Shows green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs and rain barrels.
- **Habitat For Humanity, Dover ReStore—[www.senhhabitatrestore.com](http://www.senhhabitatrestore.com)**  
 The ReStore offers new and used building materials and home improvement supplies at a deeply discounted price. These donated items are sold to the public or used in construction of Habitat houses. Total proceeds from this store benefit SENH Habitat for Humanity's mission to provide safe, decent, affordable and energy-efficient housing to hard-working, low-income families within our community.
- **NH DES—[Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development](#)**. This is helpful for those of you involved in any community planning activity from Master Plans, to updates of Ordinances and Regulations, etc.  
◦ Check out the chapter on [better landscaping practices](#) too!



For additional Green Building Resources, visit Build Green NH

[www.buildgreennh.com](http://www.buildgreennh.com)

## Speaking Opportunity in Nashua—February 10, 2010



Seeking builder or remodeler with substantial green building experience expertise to represent the HBRANH Green Building Council at the Construction Industry Breakfast Meeting for Nashua High School students on February 10, 2010 7:00-8:30am. The individual will join three other guests from diverse fields in the construction industry to be a part of our guest panel. The guests will briefly introduce themselves and then each guest will meet informally in small groups with the students to answer questions, talk about what they do, etc. These groups will last twenty minutes, then students will move on to meet with someone else, and the guest will sit with another small group of students. This will happen three times total. These small groups allow for much more interaction with the students as they are more inclined to ask questions in this type of venue. Contact [erfischer@buildgreennh.com](mailto:erfischer@buildgreennh.com) 603-491-0077



## How Builders Can Sort Through the Green Building Fog

How to quickly and easily find products eligible for points under green building programs

By Rob Brooks, Green Buildings Program Director, iLevel by Weyerhaeuser

December 11, 2009, HousingZone.com

Builders face a nearly endless flood of green product claims while numerous home rating programs compete for their attention. It can be difficult to know where to start with green building, or how best to expand if you're already committed to environmentally responsible construction.

Two product certificate/report tools introduced in 2009 provide builders an easy way to see products' green features, and how those products can earn points under major green building programs like the National Green Building Standard™ and LEED® for Homes. The certificates/reports are:

- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Research Center's Green Approved products certificates, and International Code Council Evaluation Service's (ICC-ES®) Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation™ Program (SAVE™) Verification of Attributes Reports™.

These tools provide independent verification of manufacturers' green claims, and link the listed products to specific point categories to help streamline the process of earning a green home rating.

### NAHB Research Center Green Approved Products

In broad terms, the Green Approved mark is intended to help bridge the gap between manufacturers who make green products and builders and designers who want to use them. Builders seeking a green rating for their homes under the National Green Building Standard can select products with the mark to avoid the hassle of having to do their own time-consuming research to determine if a product is eligible to contribute points.

The pre-approval not only helps builders make product selections more quickly, it also helps speed the in-the-field review of the home by the project verifiers. As such, selecting products with the mark can potentially reduce the time needed to get the home finished, rated and ready for sale.

Determining this is straightforward since the product certificates specify the conditions in brief and simple paragraphs. For example, if a builder is using iLevel TimberStrand® LSL or another Green Approved engineered wood product, the [product certificate](#) shows the specific ways those products can contribute green building rating points and spells out how they must be used.

The NAHB also provides an online [Green Scoring Tool](#) that includes information on Green Approved Products Builders can use the tool to help plan their projects and see what level of green building rating is possible depending on which green building measures they use.

### ICC-ES SAVE Program

Many builders are familiar with product code reports from ICC-ES, and now the code organization is providing green product evaluations. Their Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE) Program is the first of its kind to both verify the sustainability of building materials and determine how the products may qualify for green building points within multiple green building rating systems, including:

- The National Green Building Standard
- LEED for Homes
- LEED for New Construction and Major Renovation
- 2008 California Green Building Standards Code, and Green Globes™

The advantage of this tool is that it shows in one place a comprehensive listing of how builders need to use evaluated products in order to earn points within the various rating programs. It helps simplify the green building process by allowing ready comparison of how products can fit within five different green building programs.

Similar to the NAHB's Green Approved Products certificates, manufacturers submit their products to ICC-ES for evaluation of their green product claims. As such, it provides a third-party verification of a product's green attributes. ICC-ES evaluates products according to guidelines that address the entire production process, from raw material acquisition to final manufacturing and packaging. They then issue a Verification of Attributes (VAR™) Report.

ICC-ES provides these reports for view on its Web site. The format is comparable to that used in the NAHB's Green Approved Product certificates (see for [example VAR 1008](#), which reports on the iLevel engineered wood products discussed previously).

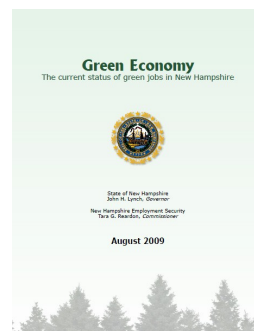
There are many ins and outs to building a green home, and numerous ways to approach it, from simple measures to complex ones. Using a third-party evaluation of a product manufacturer's green claims can help builders focus on building and selling their homes, rather than on doing in-depth research on what constitutes green. [Click Here](#) to read the entire article.



In broad terms, the Green Approved mark is intended to help bridge the gap between manufacturers who make green products and builders and designers who want to use them.

## Green Economy

“Green” is the current buzz word, much the same as “high tech” and “information technology” were in the 1990s. These days there are plenty of people using the terminology of “green,” from policy makers to marketing strategists, but there is currently no standard definition of what it actually means. At present, the definition is quite vague, making it possible to define almost any activity as “green” and thereby weakening the attempt to promote a specific “green” policy. Whenever new concepts are introduced or old concepts are re-invented, it is hard to grasp what those concepts might entail, both currently and for the future. The lack of a standard to identify “green jobs” and “green industries” has been a major roadblock to measuring the green economy. A standardized coding system agreed upon by all stakeholders will be needed to capture some of these new trends. [Click here](#) for entire article.



## Thinning the Herd: How to pick the best eco-builder

By Dino Lima and Michael Strong



The latest quality advances in green home building are providing choices to consumers that their parents could only dream of. Today's houses are less expensive to heat and cool, are more comfortable, and tread more lightly on the environment than any generation of houses before. If you hope to benefit from these innovations, it is vital to connect with a green builder who understands your needs and has the skills to meet them. You cannot just add some green products to a house and expect it to perform well; how the parts go together matters even more. So, how do you select the most qualified green builder or remodeler? [Click here](#) for entire story.



## Build it tight and green and ...they will come.

The Mountain Ear—Volume 34, Number 29—Pages 8-9

By Rachael Brown, Contributing Writer

Green is possibly the world's favorite coolest color and fast becoming the hottest buzzword in the building industry. A recent study conducted by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and Booz Allen Hamilton reports green building will support 7.9 million jobs and add \$554 million to the U.S. economy over the next four years (2009-2013). Despite the still challenging economic outlook, Gary Rahl, officer, Global Government Market, Booz Allen Hamilton, says, (quoted from study): “The study demonstrates that investing in green buildings contributes significantly to our nation's wealth while creating jobs in a range of occupations, from carpenters to cost estimators. In many ways, green construction is becoming the standard for development.”

Here in N.H., Elizabeth Fischer, program manager Build Green N.H. agrees, noting, “You can't turn on the radio or pick up a newspaper without hearing green.”

Fischer says there is a lot of interest in the state, and she should know. Fischer travels throughout the state marketing the green building educational curriculum to the building industry, consumers and public officials. Fischer herself is a second-generation builder, developer and landlord. “I have been in the business since the womb,” she says.

### What is Build Green N.H.?

Build Green N.H. is only one year old but growing fast. The organization is a council of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire providing tools for builders and consumers to calculate their greenness and providing a certification program for builders.

The goals of the initiative are to reduce greenhouse gases and to improve energy efficiency. The challenges include building new green homes and retrofitting existing leaky buildings.

“The new construction piece is sometimes easier; what's more challenging is how to retrofit the 300,000-400,000 leaky buildings. That's where the training comes in. It is important to understand building science,” says Fischer.

Training and education are key. “We want to educate our contractors how to build energy efficient homes, to use less energy. There are products that have low emissions — we want to provide the training programs for the builders,” she adds.

And train they do. One local builder who has taken advantage of the training and Build Green N.H. certification program is Gordon Cormack, founder and president of Cormack Construction, located right here in Madison. Cormack has earned the Certified Green Professional Designation. He has taken this one step further by developing his own green team: Dave Norton, designer, Suzanne Edwards, LEED specialist, John La Breck, LEED specialist, and Colleen Cormack, environmental coordinator. The Mountain Ear recently had the opportunity to meet with Cormack's four-member green team. Here's what they had to say.

## Cormack Construction goes green

Two years ago the company decided to go green — really green. “We had a sales and marketing meeting two years ago and decided to go green and asked ourselves, ‘Are we superficially green or really green?’” says Gordon Cormack. He explains that the company is really green.

To become really green they not only build green homes, but use green practices in the office by recycling and getting involved in being green as much as possible. “This has an impact on us personally; it is a work in progress,” Cormack’s daughter, Colleen Cormack, adds. “The reason this came about was a moral and business decision, the need to be responsible. It is the way the building industry is going.”



Cormack Construction's Green Team (left to right) Dave Norton, John La Breck, Gordon Cormack, Colleen Cormack, (Suzanne Edwards not pictured) (Rachael Brown Photo)

Green builders building green homes must meet certain standards. Certification from Build Green N.H. is one avenue to follow, and the more complex direction is the LEED: Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (United States Green Building Council). LEED is an internationally recognized, voluntary certification system both rating buildings and certifying professionals to be environmentally healthy, environmentally responsible and understanding of green building practices.

This system is quite complex. Both La Breck and Norton are LEED specialists for Cormack Construction. La Breck explains that LEED’s building rating system was initially designed for commercial use, but because of great interest there are now standards for residential building. Professionals must study from a thick book of standards, concepts, codes and designs to understand how all aspects of building green intertwine.

“We had to learn from a real thick book how things relate to each other. It was very difficult,” says Edwards. “The test was really tricky, lots of codes, as hard as college exams — hardest test I ever took. Even architects say how hard the testing is,” says La Breck.

The LEED system rates and recognizes a whole building approach to sustainability in eight topic areas: Innovation & Design Process; Location & Linkages; Sustainable Sites; Water Efficiency; Energy & Atmosphere; Materials & Resources; Indoor Environmental Quality; and Awareness & Education. The number of points earned determines Good Practices, Better Practices, Best practices. “LEED is the Cadillac of standards,” says Gordon Cormack.

Designers, architects, builders, the client are all involved in planning the green building. And the more you build green, the easier it becomes. Norton notes, “A lot has to be done in the beginning to build green, meeting with designers, architects and builders.”

Cormack adds that his company is turn-key. “The good strength of our company is the discussion we have with our clients. This is a turn-key operation from start to finish.” “The more we build [green], the easier it becomes,” says Edwards. “The more you do, the more you learn, the more you are able to streamline,” adds La Breck.

## Remember best practices

Other best practices include geo-thermal design and the Passive Haus concept.

Norton is familiar with both and explains in lay terms what these mean.

Geothermal uses latent heat from the earth to provide heating and cooling. The earth’s temperature is 50 to 55 degrees and geothermal uses some of that heat to either heat or cool. There are different systems for different parts of the country. A separate piece of equipment or heat exchanger is needed. Cormack Construction is working on two geothermal houses presently.

Passive Haus on the other hand was developed in Germany and is now known in the U.S. as Passive House, whose goal is to use zero energy. Norton says this involves super insulation; homes are built tight; the heat source for buildings can be body heat, lighting, cooking, recycled BTUs — all techniques are used and the building is looked at comprehensively.

“There are around 15,000 homes [Passive Haus] in Europe and this is growing rapidly in the U.S., where there are several hundred,” says Norton. He adds there is a home in Belfast, Maine, awaiting certification. Cormack says this is Norton’s passion and Norton hopes to build a Passive House someday.

Building green may cost more initially, but it can be worth it in the long run. “It [building green] may be more labor and can cost more, but the earned credits [Energy Star, rebates] can be worth it,” says La Breck. Norton explains a Passive House can cost 10 to 20 percent more, but the goal is zero energy, which saves in the long run.

Then there’s the education piece. La Breck explains how important it is to educate green homeowners on how to use their homes.

“Houses are built tight and it is important to know how the system works to keep it running properly,” he says. In a tight house ventilation is key. “Build the house as tight as you can and then control the ventilation. It’s important to change the air and not lose energy,” says Cormack. [Click Here](#) to read entire article.





New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association

## Home Energy Conference 2009

## Did You Miss The Conference?

Some Presentation Materials from our November 21 2009 conference in Plymouth NH are now available on NHSEA's website. [CLICK HERE](#) to access these presentations.



### Do Business With A Member

- [Click Here](#) to view a list of Association Members. <http://www.hbranh.com/index/membersearch>

For more information about finding a Certified Green Professional or to learn more about earning a Green Professional Designation, visit Build Green NH: <http://www.buildgreennh.com/pages/find-a-builder-remodeler>

Finding the right shade of green.

Today's home buyers want to cut their energy bills and live in healthier homes. The NAHB National Green Building Program has a flexible green rating system to fit their budgets. For green home building that's workable, authentic and affordable, go to [NAHBGreen.org](http://NAHBGreen.org).

## Build Green NH

[www.BuildGreenNH.com](http://www.BuildGreenNH.com)



Home Builders & Remodelers Association of New Hampshire  
"Building New Hampshire's Future"



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[www.buildgreennh.com](http://www.buildgreennh.com)

To submit an article for a future edition of the Build Green NH Newsletter, contact [erfischer@buildgreennh.com](mailto:erfischer@buildgreennh.com) 603-228-0351

[Click Here](#) to join the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire and Build Green NH.

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