

Earth Advantage Institute

Earth Advantage Institute is a nonprofit organization working with the building industry to help implement sustainable building practices. Offering a suite of green building certification programs, including new home, remodel, community and commercial standards, Earth Advantage Institute is a leading resource for green building knowledge.

As an innovator within the industry Earth Advantage Institute develops new and progressive ways of approaching building and evaluating building performance. Education and technical services provide a strong support system to its certification programs, ensuring that everyone from homeowners to developers have the opportunity to learn and understand the benefits of green building.

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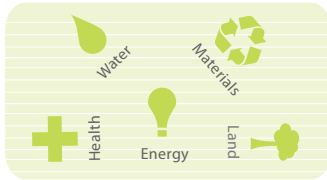
www.earthadvantage.org



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www.earthadvantage.org/commercial.php



Five key performance areas



Earth Advantage Institute is proud to introduce the newest member of its family of sustainable building programs, Earth Advantage® Commercial. The commercial program is a third-party certification track that is poised to become the industry accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance small commercial buildings.

Currently in its pilot phase, the Earth Advantage Commercial program was established with the vision of bringing an affordable, holistic, green rating system to the small commercial market, enabling developers to obtain a rigorous and recognized third-party certification for new buildings.

Helping an under-served market go green

The Earth Advantage Commercial program follows a previous certification program that certified several prominent buildings, including Nike World Headquarters. In late 2008, Earth Advantage Institute began updating the Earth Advantage Commercial standard to more effectively target the under-served small commercial building community. The process of program development included the engagement of expert stakeholders from multiple sectors in a series of progressively detailed workshops, resulting in a new prescriptive standard.

Residential and commercial
buildings account for **38%**
of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 2008 Buildings Energy Data Book, Table 1.4.1

Approximately **95%** of new commercial buildings in the U.S. are under 50,000 sq. ft., but their needs are often not met by existing green building programs.



Join our pilot program: Fall 2009 to Spring 2010

Earth Advantage Institute is now accepting pilot projects for the Earth Advantage Commercial program pilot phase. During this phase, seven to ten projects will be screened and selected by the commercial team, which will work closely with project teams to provide extensive guidance, from design through certification.

Is my project eligible?

1. Commercial projects with preference given to schools, retail, and office projects
2. Early design phase only - developments currently under construction are not eligible
3. Discrete buildings between 10,000 and 70,000 square feet
4. Within Energy Trust of Oregon territory (affiliated utilities: NW Natural, Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and Cascade Natural Gas)
5. Construction permit received under the existing state energy code

Getting paid to build green

Beyond the reduced soft costs in project certification, pilot projects may be eligible to receive cash incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon. Energy Trust's New Buildings Program offers financial assistance for satisfying Earth Advantage Commercial energy-related criteria.

"The Earth Advantage Commercial certification fills an under-served construction market where owners and developers are now seeking the bottom-line and branding benefits of green building certification."

- Clark Brockman, SERA Architects