

Energy  
Efficient  
Reconstruction  
In  
*New Orleans*



## **About this Guide**

This project provides a starting point for New Orleanians who want to rebuild their homes in an energy efficient manner. Although the price this city, this region, and all its people have paid—in terms of lives and dollars—is almost beyond description, we believe strongly that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita provided us an unprecedented opportunity to rebuild in an environmentally sustainable and efficient way. Maybe we can provide a model for how others can help us create a healthier, safer global environment.

This guide results from the belief that one of the greatest barriers to re-building all of New Orleans in an energy-efficient manner is the lack of knowledge about the benefits, technologies, and access to energy efficient construction. To address this barrier, we researched organizations at the city, state, and national levels that are presently committed to energy efficient construction. We have compiled this information systematically so as to make it as readily available as possible.

This material was compiled and written by Seth Cunningham, Anna Davis and Will Morrison under the direction of Dr. Tom Sherry (Conservation Biology, service learning) and Liz Davey (Office of Environmental Affairs), Tulane University. We welcome any and all feedback and questions that will help us make this material more useful and accessible.

Liz Davey ([ldavey@tulane.edu](mailto:ldavey@tulane.edu))  
Tom Sherry ([tsherry@tulane.edu](mailto:tsherry@tulane.edu))

## **How to read this guide**

This guide begins with an introduction to energy efficient technologies, followed by data sheets for various people, groups, and organizations serving the greater New Orleans region. Each sheet describes who the organization is, what it does, whom to contact for more information, and links to websites with further information and resources.

**Last updated June, 2007**

# Table of Contents

Why energy efficiency?	4
How is “energy efficient” different from “green”?	4
Energy efficiency ideas and suggestions	5
Educational Opportunities	6
Incentive Programs	7
Directory	
Global Green	9
Alliance for Affordable Energy	10
Enterprise	11
Center for Bioenvironmental Research	13
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, State Energy Office, DNR and PRC Energy Efficient Homes Project	15
LSU AgCenter, Louisiana House Resource Center	17
Entergy	19
Tulane City Center/ Urban Build Project	21
U.S. Green Building Council	22
Myron Katz	24
Energy Star	26
ACEEE	27
Energy Efficient Buildings to Note	29
Energy Raters of New Orleans Area	31

## *Why Energy Efficiency?*

We see two compelling reasons. First, energy efficient homes are the best way to fight back against rising utility bills. Every penny not spent on energy is a penny in the pocket. Some of the savings are short-term, some take longer to see. Even something as simple as switching to fluorescent light bulbs can reduce the cost of the monthly energy bill. Bigger investments, for example in efficient appliances, better insulated homes, and solar-energy, can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year.

Second, consuming less energy is simply the right thing to do. This results in less use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas, and reduces our dependence on foreign countries for these resources. By reducing our use of these nonrenewable resources we are also reducing our contribution to global warming, a threat to our coastal city and even our present way of life. Minimizing the risk of global warming will save not only human lives, but will help protect the environments of thousands, or even millions of other species sharing our planet.

As New Orleans rebuilds we can make our city better. Energy efficiency has a major role to play. More energy efficient homes and businesses will make our city easier and more attractive to live, work, or just visit, and the economy will benefit as well.

## *How Is “Energy Efficient” Different from “Green”?*

Energy efficient construction is a piece of green construction. Energy efficiency refers to any method to reduce energy consumed, such as using compact fluorescent light bulbs, strong insulation, and energy star appliances. Green building also includes water conservation, use of recycled construction materials, healthy natural lighting and temperature control, landscaping with native species, and improving indoor air quality.

# *Energy Efficiency Ideas and Suggestions*

## **Easy Tips:**

1. Install Fluorescent Light Bulbs.
2. Turn off lights whenever leaving a room.
3. Keep air conditioners set to a higher temperature by using more fans.
4. Insulate the hot water heater.
5. Have heating/cooling systems checked regularly for efficiency.
6. Buy Energy Star Appliances.
7. Install a programmable thermostat.



## **Bigger Projects:**

1. Minimize solar heating in summer:
  - a. Plant deciduous trees.
  - b. Install radiant Barriers in roof and walls.
  - c. Install window over-hangs on south-facing exposures.
  - d. Install light colored/Energy Star approved roof.
2. Use more and better insulation.
3. Tighten weatherization around windows, doors, and vents.
4. Locate heating and cooling units in semi-conditioned spaces.
5. Install a highly efficient, properly sized heating and cooling system.
6. Seal duct work with Duct Mastic rather than duct tape.

## **Ambitious Projects:**

1. Install renewable energy sources such as solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling systems.

# *Educational Opportunities*

These organizations offer workshops, resource centers, and public demonstration projects.

- **Global Green**, Provides public presentations and workshops; their office doubles as a resource center of energy efficient methods.
  - Green NOLA Design Competition
  - Green Schools Project

[www.globalgreen.org](http://www.globalgreen.org)

(504) 525-2121

- **Alliance for Affordable Energy**, A consumer advocacy non-profit organization with goals ranging from lowering energy bills to fighting global warming through workshops, publications, and exhibitions.
  - Green Building exhibit at New Orleans Home Show
  - Clean Energy Home Tours
  - Build Smart Resource Center opening in fall 2007

[www.all4energy.org](http://www.all4energy.org)

(504) 208-9761

- **LA House**. A project of the LSU AgCenter: a demonstration home designed for Louisiana's climate, with emphasis on efficiency and durability.
  - Guided Tours of Baton Rouge location every Friday

[www.louisianahouse.org](http://www.louisianahouse.org)

(225) 578-2378

# *Incentive Programs*

Tax credits, loans and rebates are available for energy efficient improvements.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provides federal tax credits for making energy efficient home improvements, and use of an energy efficient car. The IRS offers a tax credit up to \$500 for home improvements such as efficient air conditioners and windows, and a tax credit up to \$2000 for building a new energy efficient home. For more information visit the Energy Star website at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits).

Two other financial incentive programs for energy efficient construction are the Louisiana Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) and The Louisiana Home Energy Rebate Option (HERO). The HELP program offers reduced interest rates on loans for energy related home improvements. For more information about HELP visit the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources website at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/SEC/EXECDIV/TECHASMT/programs/residential/help/>.

The HERO program offers a cash payment for Louisiana residents who build or improve homes to high levels of energy efficiency. Note: This program has stopped accepting any preliminary ratings on new homes as of October, 2006.

For more information visit <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/SEC/EXECDIV/TECHASMT/programs/residential/hero/instructions.htm>

*New Orleans Energy Efficiency  
Reconstruction Directory*

# Global Green

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** John Moore (Program Assistant)
- b. **Phone number:** 504-525-2121
- c. **Web site:** [www.globalgreen.org](http://www.globalgreen.org)

## 2. Service(s) provided:

Global Green is a great resource. They readily answer questions by e-mail, phone, or in person. They do presentations to groups, but work with individuals on specific home or building project. They attend town hall meetings and similar events to educate the public as well as answer questions. They provide displays and diagrams of many energy efficient methods and technologies. Guided tours are available by reservation weekdays

## 3. Focus of efforts:

Global Green is a national organization that has opened a New Orleans office to increase their local and regional impact. The focus is on bigger energy efficient projects and initiatives. Efforts in New Orleans focus on wetland restoration and raising ground level, but are also involved in enhancing energy efficient rebuilding.

## 4. Advocated technologies/strategies:

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline:

Global Green has two major projects locally: The Green NOLA Design Competition and the Green Schools Project. The former is a project to design 10 houses and 1 community center in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> ward. This community project is intended as a prototype for what could be a widely adopted New Orleans model. Brad Pitt joins Global Green and many other New Orleansians and groups to provide visibility and finances. The Green School's Project has the goal of building one school and rehabilitating another school, including energy efficient technologies. Funding comes largely from the Bush and Clinton Katrina Fund. The idea is to involve all stakeholders (teachers, parents, students, administrators). Status: hiring a Senior Program Manager to get this program off the ground.

## 6. Target audience:

All residents in and around New Orleans

**a. Methods of communicating with audience:** Presentations to groups and individuals. They will work with individuals on a specific house or building. Office in New Orleans communicates using displays and diagrams.

## 7. Source(s) of financial support:

Global Green has a significant base of private subsidies and many donations.

# Alliance for Affordable Energy

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Forest Bradley-Wright
- b. **E-mail address:** uc.forest@gmail.com
- c. **Phone number:** (504) 208-7597
- d. **Web site:** [www.all4energy.org](http://www.all4energy.org)

## 2. Services provided:

The Alliance provides services directly to its members and the community through "hands-on" workshops, publications, information on the best ways to save energy, and inspiring individuals to make a difference.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

The Alliance is a New Orleans nonprofit membership organization dedicated to creating fair, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy policies. Founded in 1985, the Alliance conducts community education campaigns on energy issues, helps citizens and businesses become more energy efficient, and promote sustainable energy policy solutions. As the only Louisiana consumer advocacy/environmental organization, the Alliance plays a pivotal role in providing citizen input on energy-related issues. Since its inception, the organization's mission has evolved to cover energy issues affecting citizens from reducing energy bills to being the state's lead organizer in the fight to stop global warming. In the wake of the devastating 2005 hurricanes, the Alliance is using its regulatory, policy development, networking, and outreach skills to ensure that New Orleans and the region use available sustainable technologies and smart planning choices in the reconstruction.

## 4. Advocated technologies/strategies:

- Insulation
- Energy Star Appliances
- Radiant barriers

## 5. Feature projects & timeline:

- New Orleans Home and Garden Show with Energy Efficiency section – workshops, do it yourself projects, demonstration models, Energy Star Appliances (last held March 30 to April 1, 2007)
- Build Smart Resource Center
- Eco Park Project – Industrial Park

**6. Target audience:** The residents and stakeholders of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, as well as the City of New Orleans.

**7. Source(s) of financial support:** Grants and membership base

# Enterprise

## 1. Contact Information:

- d. **Contact person(s):** Michelle Whetten
- e. **E-mail address:** [mwhetten@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:mwhetten@enterprisecommunity.org)
- f. **Phone number:** 917-887-6068
- g. **Web site:** [www.enterprisecommunity.org](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org)

## 2. Service(s) provided:

Enterprise provides technical assistance, counseling, and some funding to developers who are building energy efficient homes. They work on policy at both the state and national level (e.g. Giving tax credits/points to developers who build green).

In New Orleans, Enterprise distributes fliers about activities and conferences. Representatives network by attending local meetings involving similar groups. Elsewhere, Enterprise holds workshops and training sessions. New to the New Orleans area, they had not yet gotten these sessions underway as of Spring 2007.

Focus is on the practical, easily understandable energy efficient goals and technologies that are most likely to be adopted widely.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

They primarily focus on working with developers by providing incentives and education about the ease and convenience of energy efficient construction compared with conventional building. They also emphasize the long term economic benefits of energy efficiency.

## 4. Advocated technologies/strategies:

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline:

Enterprise is working closely with Lafitte and Treme residents to plan a vibrant community that is equitable, affordable, and sustainable. The project will include 1,500 homes, allowing all 900 previous residents to return as well as providing 600 new homes. A class-action lawsuit has put the future of the project in question, but efforts continue uninterrupted to help residents return home, stay informed, and gain employment, health care and other services.

Enterprise worked with The National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Program to rebuild St. John the Baptist Church in New Orleans. Along with other partners, they held listening sessions to identify healthier, more environmentally responsive strategies to rebuild the Gulf Coast Region's churches. Two training sessions followed these talks, and a green building toolkit was distributed to various churches. Enterprise also helped fund this project, providing part of two grants totaling \$80,000.

**6. Target audience:** Developers of affordable income housing.

**7. Source(s) of financial support:**

One of their programs, The Green Community Program, is completely funded by grants. Enterprises' other work in NOLA is also supported by grants, but is heavily supported by individual donations as well.

# Center for Bioenvironmental Research

## 1. Contact Information:

- h. **Contact person(s):** Charles Allen
- i. **E-mail address:** callen3@tulane.edu
- j. **Phone number:** (504) 988-6612
- k. **Web site:** [www.cbr.tulane.edu](http://www.cbr.tulane.edu)

## 2. Service(s) provided:

The CBR generates knowledge through research and communication, making complex issues understandable.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

The mission of the CBR is to conduct and coordinate research and teaching to enhance global understanding of environmental issues and provide solutions through innovative communication and technology. Through the facilitation of Charles Allen, CBR Assistant Director and also Vice President of the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, the CBR has initiated and assisted with several projects bringing sustainable energy and rebuilding practices to Holy Cross, the neighborhood next to the Mississippi River levee in the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> ward.

## 4. Advocated Technologies/Strategies:

- a. tight weatherization
- b. proper/more use of insulation
- c. ceiling fans
- d. fluorescent light bulbs

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline:

The CBR, along with the LA Department of Natural Resources, helped facilitate the Holy Cross/Lower 9th in developing their "Sustainable Restoration: Holy Cross Historic District and Lower 9th Ward" plan.

Sharp Solar International, the world's largest manufacturer of solar panels, recently brought the power of solar energy to New Orleans by donating solar systems to members of the New Orleans community. Sharp worked with several local organizations and businesses, including the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, The Alliance for Affordable Energy, Williams Architects, Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, to select 10 deserving Lower 9th homes/structures to receive these solar systems. And, 9 systems were installed on residential homes and 1 was installed on the NENA Recovery Center. The solar systems, which were installed on February 28 and March 1, 2007 by Sharp's authorized dealers, will supply these homes/structures with a lifetime of free, clean energy.

The CBR recently helped in the development of the Lower 9th ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development. This center is to stimulate civic engagement and energy efficient, sustainable restoration of the Lower 9th.

**6. Target audience:**

Academics/researchers, government personnel, policy analysts, policy makers/implementers, and the general public.

**7. Source(s) of financial support:** Federal grants, foundation grants and state grants.

# Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and Preservation Resource Center Energy Efficient Historic Homes Project

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Paula Ridgeway- DNR State Energy Manager
- b. **Email** [paular@dnr.state.la.us](mailto:paular@dnr.state.la.us)
- c. **Phone** (225)-342-1399

For more information on this project and others dealing with historic homes in New Orleans contact the Preservation Resource Center (PRC):

923 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 581-7032 or [prc@prcno.org](mailto:prc@prcno.org), general information  
(504) 581-7031 staff offices  
<http://www.prcno.org/>

## 2. Service(s) provided:

The DNR works with the New Orleans Preservation Resource Center to rebuild/restore historic homes in the Holy Cross neighborhood. The DNR provides expertise in using the best practices and materials for energy efficiency in the home for the PRC's Operation Comeback. Through Operation Comeback, the PRC buys and restores blighted historical homes in the Holy Cross Neighborhood in New Orleans.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

This project's mission is not only to place energy efficiency measures in the homes, but to ensure appropriate training on installation and availability of materials for homeowners as well as those in the construction industry interested in these technologies.

[http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/residential/DNR\\_PRC\\_2007.htm](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/residential/DNR_PRC_2007.htm)

## 4. Advocated technologies/strategies:

This site offers downloadable PowerPoint's and PDF's providing information about usage and installation of different types of insulation, heating and cooling systems, water heaters, energy efficient windows, energy efficient lighting, solar energy, and other presentations about making ones home more energy efficient.

[http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/residential/dnr\\_prc\\_ee\\_workshops/index.htm](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/techasmt/programs/residential/dnr_prc_ee_workshops/index.htm)

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline:

The DNR is in the process of making videos (by April 2007?) of these technologies currently explained in the power point presentations.

**6. Target audience:** Owners of energy inefficient historic home and contractors and builders.

**7. Source(s) of financial support:** Louisiana DNR and private donations.

# LSU AgCenter, Louisiana House Resource Center

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Audrey Evans

[aevans@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:aevans@agcenter.lsu.edu)

(504) 280-4017

Dr. Claudette Reichel

[creichel@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:creichel@agcenter.lsu.edu)

(225) 578-4440

- b. **Web sites:**

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family\\_home/home/la\\_house/about\\_lahouse/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/home/la_house/about_lahouse/)

<http://www.louisianahouse.org/>

## 2. Service(s) provided:

The Louisiana House is a demonstration house intended to educate builders and homeowners about new methods and materials available to build and renovate houses in the “Hot-Humid” climate zone.

The LSU AgCenter is accessible to the public through their website, booths at various home shows, and open houses with guided tours every Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Article by the Projects director, Claudette Reichel:

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/agmag/Archive/2005/Fall/LaHouse+Paves+the+Way+for+Sustainable+Housing.htm>

## 3. Focus of efforts:

The aim of the “project house” is to educate people about technologies suitable for homes in our climate zone. The demonstration house is designed to stand up to high winds, high humidity, and to be a model of sustainability, based on current research and resources.

## 4. Advocated technologies/strategies:

- Passive solar orientation and features (front facing N or S) for Baton Rouge climate
- Minimized solar heat gain (shading, solar reflectance, etc.) is first priority
- Winter efficiency and natural ventilation for mild seasons
- Tight construction, controlled ventilation with efficient dehumidification
- Insulation systems with good “whole wall” R-values
- High-efficiency HVAC in conditioned space as well as in unvented, insulated

- attic
- Zoned heating/cooling for day and night zones
- Low-life-cycle-cost equipment and lighting:
  - high-color fluorescents, controlled day lighting, high-efficiency appliances, etc

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family\\_home/home/la\\_house/about\\_lahouse/building\\_features/#sustain](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/home/la_house/about_lahouse/building_features/#sustain)

**5. Relevant projects & timeline:**

LaHouse will be completed in 2007, and will be operated as a teaching center for residential construction. Plans for the construction of additional demonstration houses in Cameron Parish, Lake Charles, and New Orleans are moving forward with technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America program (Building Science Consortium).

**6. Target audience:** Contractors, homeowners, general public

**7. Source(s) of financial support:** U.S. Department of Energy, private foundations, corporations, and individuals

# Entergy, Incorporated

## Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Linda Baynham – Energy Efficiency Coordinator
- b. **E-mail address:** lbaynha@entergy.com
- c. **Phone number:** (504) 576-3877 (office)  
(504) 606-7315 (cell)
- d. **Web site:** [www.entergy.com/ensight](http://www.entergy.com/ensight)  
[www.entergy-neworleans.com](http://www.entergy-neworleans.com)

## 2. Service(s) provided:

Most services are located on Entergy's website (Ensign) in the form of information. They also do presentations, weatherization projects, and light bulb donations throughout the state of Louisiana.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

Entergy Corporation is an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, and it is the second-largest nuclear generator in the United States.

Entergy delivers electricity to 2.6 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of more than \$10 billion and approximately 14,000 employees.

They have worked with numerous energy efficiency groups throughout New Orleans and Louisiana, such as LA House, Global Green, Alliance for Affordable Energy, LA State Energy Office, and Green Light New Orleans.

## 4. Advocated Technologies/Strategies:

- Weatherization
- Louisiana HERO (Home Energy Rebate Option) program
- Building Code Implementation
- Lighting: Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World campaign

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline:

Entergy doesn't provide many hands-on projects. Most of its contribution is through its website. Customer service managers can do presentations on energy efficiency, as well.

## 6. Target audience: Residents of New Orleans

## 7. Source(s) of financial support:

Combination of shareholder funds and the rates Entergy charges its customers. Funds for projects in the New Orleans area are available through the Environmental Stewardship Grant process (January–February each year, environmental projects only) and the Entergy Foundation (year round, education related projects only). See Entergy’s Corporate Contributions website for more information and applications:  
[http://www.entergy.com/our\\_community/giving.aspx](http://www.entergy.com/our_community/giving.aspx)

# Tulane City Center/Urban Build Project

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Dan Etheridge
- b. **E-mail address:** [dether@tulane.edu](mailto:dether@tulane.edu)
- c. **Web site:** [http://tulaneurbanbuild.com/urban\\_build.html](http://tulaneurbanbuild.com/urban_build.html)

## 2. Service(s) provided:

Faculty and students engaged in URBANbuild studios are deployed to neighborhoods throughout the city to develop creative and sustainable urban design strategies, innovative designs for new housing, and proposals for site-specific urban interventions and large-scale mixed use urban environments. URBANbuild is providing urban research and analysis as well as comprehensive neighborhood plans and strategies for urban revitalization for four target areas in New Orleans: the Upper Treme (6th ward) and Tulane/Gravier neighborhoods; New Marigny/St. Roch neighborhood (7th ward); and two neighborhoods in Central City.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

The main focus in the design and building of the prototype project houses is affordability. Sustainability is the second priority; energy efficiency plays a large part in making the houses sustainable. The one house that has already been constructed (1930 Dumaine Street) was completed in the summer of 2006. Budget constraints prevented the use of many high-tech energy efficiency methods, such as solar panels and geothermal heating that the designers would have liked to use. The house was made as efficient as possible by using good quality materials and solid, “tight” construction.

## 4. Advocated Technologies/Strategies:

The Urban Build website offers a very nice chart which lists some of the materials used on the house. The chart is useful because it includes advantages to the specific materials (durability, energy efficiency, affordability, etc.), the price at the time of some materials, and where the materials were purchased.

[http://tulaneurbanbuild.com/build/build\\_materials1.html](http://tulaneurbanbuild.com/build/build_materials1.html)

**5. Relevant projects and timeline:** Future project houses are being designed.

**6. Target audience:** Architects

**7. Source(s) of financial support:** The Neighborhood Housing Service

# U.S. Green Building Council

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Charles Allen
- b. **E-mail address:** callen3@tulane.edu
- c. **Phone number:** (504) 988-6612
- d. **Web site:** www.usgbc.org

## 2. Service(s) provided:

- a. Donations to homeowners
- b. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification
- c. Greenbuild – international conference
- d. Emerging Green Builders - The USGBC's Emerging Green Builders program provides educational opportunities and resources to students and young professionals with the goal of integrating these future leaders into the green building movement.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a nonprofit organization made up of more than 7,500 organizations involved in the building industry. The core purpose of the USGBC is to make the building marketplace more concerned with sustainability. They promote buildings for living and building that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy.

Charles Allen (see Tulane's Center for Bioenvironmental Research, above) is member of the board of directors. He is interested in expanding the work that he and others are doing in the Holy Cross neighborhood of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. Holy Cross received a donation of solar panels to help build energy efficient homes and a community center.

## 4. Advocated Technologies/Strategies:

- a. Tight weatherization
- b. Proper/more use of insulation
- c. Ceiling fans
- d. Fluorescent light bulbs

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline:

- Center for Engaging Development – in progress
- Solar Panel Homes of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward
- LEED – rating system: LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. USGBC's members, representing every sector of the building industry, developed and continue to refine LEED. LEED addresses all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell,

operations & maintenance, homes, neighborhoods, and specific applications such as retail, multiple buildings/campuses, schools, healthcare, laboratories and lodging. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED promotes expertise in green building through a comprehensive system offering project certification, professional accreditation, training, and practical resources.

- Chapter Program: USGBC has a strong network of 75 regional chapters throughout the U.S. USGBC Chapters provide local green building resources, education and leadership opportunities. Local chapter members can connect with green building experts in their area, develop local green building strategies and tour green building projects.
- Education:
  - Workshops
  - Online Courses
  - Education Providers Program: connects beginners and experts alike to top-quality green building education in a variety of disciplines. Each provider and their offerings will be thoroughly reviewed by USGBC's Professional Development Committee, so one can be sure to get the highest-quality, most current programs from proven green building leaders.
  - LEED for School: USGBC's green building rating system for the design and construction of high-performance green schools.

## **6. Target audience:**

The residents and stakeholders of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, as well as the residents of the city of New Orleans.

## **7. Source(s) of financial support: Grants**

# Myron Katz

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. **Contact person(s):** Myron Katz
- b. **E-mail address:** [MyronKatz@cox.net](mailto:MyronKatz@cox.net)  
[Myron.katz@ EnergyRater.com.com](mailto:Myron.katz@EnergyRater.com.com)
- c. **Phone number:** (504) 343-1243 (cell)  
(504) 866-1243 (office)  
(504) 324-0204 (fax)
- d. **Web site:**  
[www.TheRegenGroup.com](http://www.TheRegenGroup.com)  
[www.EnergyRater.com/myronkatz](http://www.EnergyRater.com/myronkatz)  
[www.EfficientHousing.com](http://www.EfficientHousing.com)

## 2. Service(s) provided:

Myron Katz provides local (New Orleans) consulting for home efficiency, ventilation, heating & cooling.

- a. Energy Efficiency
- b. Durability
- c. Comfort
- d. Safety
- e. Health (i.e., Indoor Air Quality)
- f. Faulty or deteriorated construction:
  - i. Leaking roofs
  - ii. Moisture laden walls
  - iii. Warping floors
- g. Proper AC installation:
  - i. Sizing
  - ii. Duct Design
  - iii. Duct leakage testing
- h. Ventilation
- i. Passive Survivability
- j. Renewable Energy Systems

## 3. Focus of efforts:

He works independently as an energy consultant and as a public policy advocate.

- Talks
- Research
- Papers
- Tours of own home
- Led “GET NOPSI BACK” in 1980’s
- Currently leads New Orleans Energy Policy Task Force

**4. Advocated technologies/strategies:**

- No attic fans
- No instant water heaters
- Radiant barriers installed above all insulation systems
- Cellulose insulation as preferred technology in almost all places in residences unless the home is constructed out of concrete.
- Insulation between rafters i.e., “cathedralized” attics
- Insulation in crawl space walls
- Dehumidification
- Ground-source heat-pumps
- Hydronic distribution of cooling and heating (also called "Chilled Water" distribution)

**5. Relevant projects & timeline:**

- Build It Back Right – series of fact sheets that give instructions on how to make ones home more energy efficient – in progress.

**6. Target audience:** Home-renovators

**7. Source(s) of financial support:** Self-employed

# ENERGY STAR

## **1. Contact Information:**

- a. **Web site:** [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

## **2. Service(s) provided:**

They provide many different sources for energy efficient home building such as links to common home problems, how to fix them, features of new houses that are Energy Star qualified, and links to energy home raters. They put their emblem on products that meet government certification, energy efficient standards. The energy star emblem on appliances indicates certification for energy efficiency.

Webpage is informative and easily navigable. It provides a FAQ's page for more detailed information.

## **3. Focus of efforts:**

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping people save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

## **4. Advocated technologies/strategies:**

All of their labeled appliances are the most energy efficient of their type.

## **5. Relevant projects & timeline:**

No specific New Orleans projects.

## **6. Target audience:**

United States citizens

## **7. Source(s) of financial support:**

Government support (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy)

# American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

## 1. Contact Information:

- a. E-mail address: info@aceee.org
- b. Phone number: 202-429-8873
- c. Web site: [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org)  
<http://aceee.org/buildings/residential.htm>

## 2. Service(s) provided:

They produce books that rate current home appliances on energy efficiency. On their website they give tips on how to begin making ones home more energy efficient in simple ways. They also provide basic guidelines to follow when getting an energy efficient contractor. Tips and information on various household appliances are also provided.

ACEEE provides a helpful website. They also produce literature that rates energy efficient appliances as well as discusses newly emerging technologies. Some of the booklets are fairly technical, and will require effort to understand. ACEEE is not a membership organization; however, they send out notices of publications as well as hold conferences and other activities to over 30,000 individuals.

## 3. Focus of efforts:

They focus conducting in-depth technical and policy assessments; advising policymakers and program managers; working collaboratively with businesses, public interest groups, and other organizations; organizing conferences and workshops; publishing books, conference proceedings, and reports; and educating consumers and businesses.

## 4. Advocated technologies/strategies:

Rating of diverse appliances for energy efficiency

## 5. Relevant projects & timeline: No specific New Orleans projects

## 6. Target audience: Home owners

## 7. Source(s) of financial support:

- Foundations
- Federal, Regional, State, and International Agencies
- Utilities
- National Laboratories and Research Institutes

- Private Companies and Their Associations
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Individuals

# Energy Efficient Buildings of Note

## 1. Name of organization, group, individual:

Private home energy efficiency demonstration and experimentation project, New Orleans, Louisiana.

## 2. Service(s) provided:

Demonstration project on technologies for home energy efficiency; technical expertise on energy efficient home construction technologies for Gulf South region; technical advice from Myron Katz (see above).

## 3. Focus of efforts:

Implementation of energy-efficiency technologies in private home addition; research of available technologies; and consultation for energy-efficient construction in the Gulf South.

## 4. Relevant technologies:

### A. Ground-source heat-pump

1. Capacity carefully established to prevent humidity problem
2. Ideal in delta (mud/clay) soils around New Orleans
3. Closed-circulation loop system into ground for heat transfer (4X250' deep)
4. Closed-circulation loop to hot water heater (in garage) to pre-heat shower water in summer

### B. Localization of heating/cooling units in semi-conditioned space

1. Attic retrofitted to be semi-conditioned: End walls sealed and insulated, roof insulated (see below)
2. Crawl space beneath house retrofitted to be semi-conditioned: space sealed to outside, all exterior crawl-space walls insulated with 3" rigid foam board (glued to interior of walls); Ground covered with 6 mil plastic layer (vapor barrier), edges glued to chain walls.

### C. Roof construction to minimize heat input, maximize heat retention

### D. Insulation

1. Roof insulated using radiant barrier, rigid 1.5" foam board insulation, blown-in cellulose insulation between rafters, light-colored (reflective) shingles
2. Gable end walls (new) with blown-in cellulose insulation, radiant barriers
3. Blown-in cellulose insulation in walls of new addition to home
4. All AC/heating ducts and water pipes to hot-water heater in garage insulated
5. Water heater has insulated jacket

### E. Ceiling fans

1. Allow comfort at warmer temperatures (therefore using less energy in summer)
2. Fans reversed to re-circulate warm air accumulating near ceilings in winter
- F. Energy Star appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher)
- G. Creation of air-tight conditioned space in home interior
  1. All AC/heating duct-work replaced, tested for leaks
  2. Doors and windows tight-fitting
  3. Chimney plugged to prevent air-exchange with outside environment
- H. Window overhang on south-facing exposures constructed to allow direct solar radiation in winter, but not summer
- I. Dehumidifier to control moisture build-up (in winter)
- J. Tree plantings to help minimize direct solar radiation in summer
  1. Live oaks, primarily, to minimize summer heating, while also providing wind protection against severe storms

**5. Relevant projects & timeline:**

- A. Projects described above all completed
- B. Other: East- and west-facing Florida shutters to be done
- C. Home energy bills (gas, electric) available both pre- and post-construction: Conservatively estimated 30% (minimum) energy savings.

**6. Target audience:** Other homeowners in Gulf South; home-owners/builders in post-Katrina New Orleans

- A. **Methods of communicating with audience:** Newspaper editorials, networking with other environmentally concerned citizens; word-of-mouth; looking for ways to communicate to broader audience

**7. Source(s) of financial support:**

- A. Hero Energy Rebate Program, State of Louisiana (for overall improvements in energy efficiency): \$2,000.00.
- B. Remainder owner-funded

**8. Model program(s):**

**9. Networking with other energy-efficiency groups**

- A. **Group names, contacts:** Myron Katz, energy auditor and consultant on energy-efficiency and climate-control projects for home construction
- B. **HVAC Energy Consultant:** Raul E. Mena, Inc. (504-392-4149): [www.menaAir.com](http://www.menaAir.com)

# Energy Raters in New Orleans Area

[http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/tehasmt/programs/residential/erhl/raters\\_20070130.htm](http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/tehasmt/programs/residential/erhl/raters_20070130.htm)

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