

# TOGETHER WE'RE GREENER STEAMBOAT'S

## GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM

BY BOB KEENAN  
CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS



The City of Steamboat Springs and the Routt County Building Department have been awarded \$25,250 from the Colorado Heritage Planning Grant Program to develop and adopt a model energy efficient building code and program.

The goal is an easy to use program, that results in more cost effective and efficient buildings and which also provides a model green building program for other communities

The Colorado Heritage Planning Grant Program is a competitive grant program administered by the Office of Smart Growth within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). This grant program, created in 2000, provides financial assistance to local governments working on collaborative approaches to growth management and sustainable development.

The City and County have accepted this grant and have agreed to work in tandem to create a green building program. They have appointed Program Coordinators for this grant, City Planner Bob Keenan and County Building Department Assistant Building Official Ted Allen. The consulting team of Architectural Energy Corporation and What's Working Inc. has been selected to research what other cities have done to create green building codes/programs. With the help of the Yampa Valley Construction Trades Association, a technical advisory committee has been assembled to provide input in the planning process. This committee is made up of a diverse cross-section of stakeholders and construction professionals.

The six to nine month development process will include extensive community participation in evaluating both voluntary, incentive based programs and regulatory approaches to promoting energy efficient building. The goal is an easy to use program, that results in more cost effective and efficient buildings and which also provides a model green building program for other communities. Adoption of this program will likely be in March 2008.

A typical green building program is either performance or prescriptive based. A performance based program will require inspections and testing to document that a particular building component is functioning as expected. A prescriptive based program usually dictates installation of certain building components that will perform as expected and do not require testing or inspection.



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Green building programs typically scrutinize the following components of building: building site/envelope, foundation, landscaping, structural frame, exterior finish, insulation, plumbing, HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), renewable energy, building performance, finishes, flooring, appliances/lighting, electrical, water use, deconstruction/demolition, construction debris recycling, use of recycled materials, innovation, and windows/doors. Baseline levels are set for each of these categories. Work done above and beyond the baseline may allow the building to achieve a higher level of green designation or the builder may be rewarded with incentives.

A Green Building Program for the City and County will likely apply to all new development and substantial remodels. Many of the components listed above would be included in a Green Building Program. Baseline and minimum target levels for each component category will be set and any buildings that are built above and beyond these minimums will receive a higher level of certification. Details of baselines and component categories will be set by the policy decision makers for each governmental jurisdiction.

Community Participation is essential to a successful green building program. While the technical advisory committee has been set, there are still many ways for the general public to get involved. Specific dates for public hearings have not been set as of the time of this publication. The program coordinators will announce upcoming public meetings via the newspaper, website, and other methods. These meetings will include: City Planning Commission, County Planning Commission, City Council, and Board of County Commissioners. If a member of the public would rather not attend meetings but would like to be kept up to date on the latest draft of the program or comment on the program please contact the project coordinators.

# info

## Community participation is essential to a successful green building program



For more information please visit the green building program website: <http://yampavalley.info/greenbuilding.asp> or contact the project coordinators.

program coordinators

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