

Discover the **elements** of a green home makeover



GreenPointRATED EXISTING HOME

An Introduction for Homeowners



Introducing GreenPoint Rated Existing Home.

Rethink your approach to remodeling.

Today, more Californians are turning to green remodeling as a way to protect what they value the most—their families, communities, and environment. By remodeling your home so that it is more durable, healthier, and more energy and resource efficient, you can help improve quality of life, add value to your home, and take pride in your decision to remodel green. And remodeling an existing home is even greener than building a new green home, because it conserves precious resources and avoids waste.

It's easy to get started.

GreenPoint Rated Existing Home offers a pathway for green home remodeling. A GreenPoint Rated Existing Home means that you've chosen environmentally friendly building materials that will make your home more comfortable and healthier while increasing energy efficiency. By hiring a GreenPoint Rater to evaluate the remodeling work you have already completed or are planning, you'll know you are making the smartest investment in your most valuable asset. To find a GreenPoint Rater, go to GreenPointRated.org.

Best of all, GreenPoint Rated Existing Home makes it easy to participate. Whether you're planning a small remodel or a major renovation, a GreenPoint Rater will simplify the process and help prioritize your home improvements. You'll learn the best options for making your home greener—whether it was built in 1895 or 1995.

The GreenPoint Rated Pathway

The GreenPoint Rated comprehensive approach to home remodeling will enhance the well-being of your family, support a healthy community, and preserve the natural environment. In practical terms, green building is a “whole systems” approach that incorporates the following five principles:



Livable Communities



Energy Efficiency



Indoor Air Quality



Resource Conservation



Water Conservation

GreenPoint Rated Existing Home is designed to provide an accessible entry point, and also to reward comprehensive improvements. Whether you are planning a small remodel or a major renovation, GreenPoint Rated Existing Home takes the guesswork out of improving your home's energy and water efficiency, to help make your home more comfortable and healthier for you and your family.

Because GreenPoint Rated is a program of California non-profit Build It Green, you can be assured that you are getting unbiased information. And you will be assured that your home is more comfortable, its systems are more efficient, and it is crafted with care.

GreenPoint Rated Existing Home offers two consumer labels.

Depending on the extent of improvements you have made or are planning to make to your home, it could qualify for either the Elements label or the Whole House label.



ELEMENTS

The Elements label is for homes that meet basic requirements and are on track to make additional improvements over time. Homeowners receive recommendations identifying changes that will make their homes more comfortable, more energy efficient, and better for the environment. Of course, older homes are likely to require more changes than newer ones.

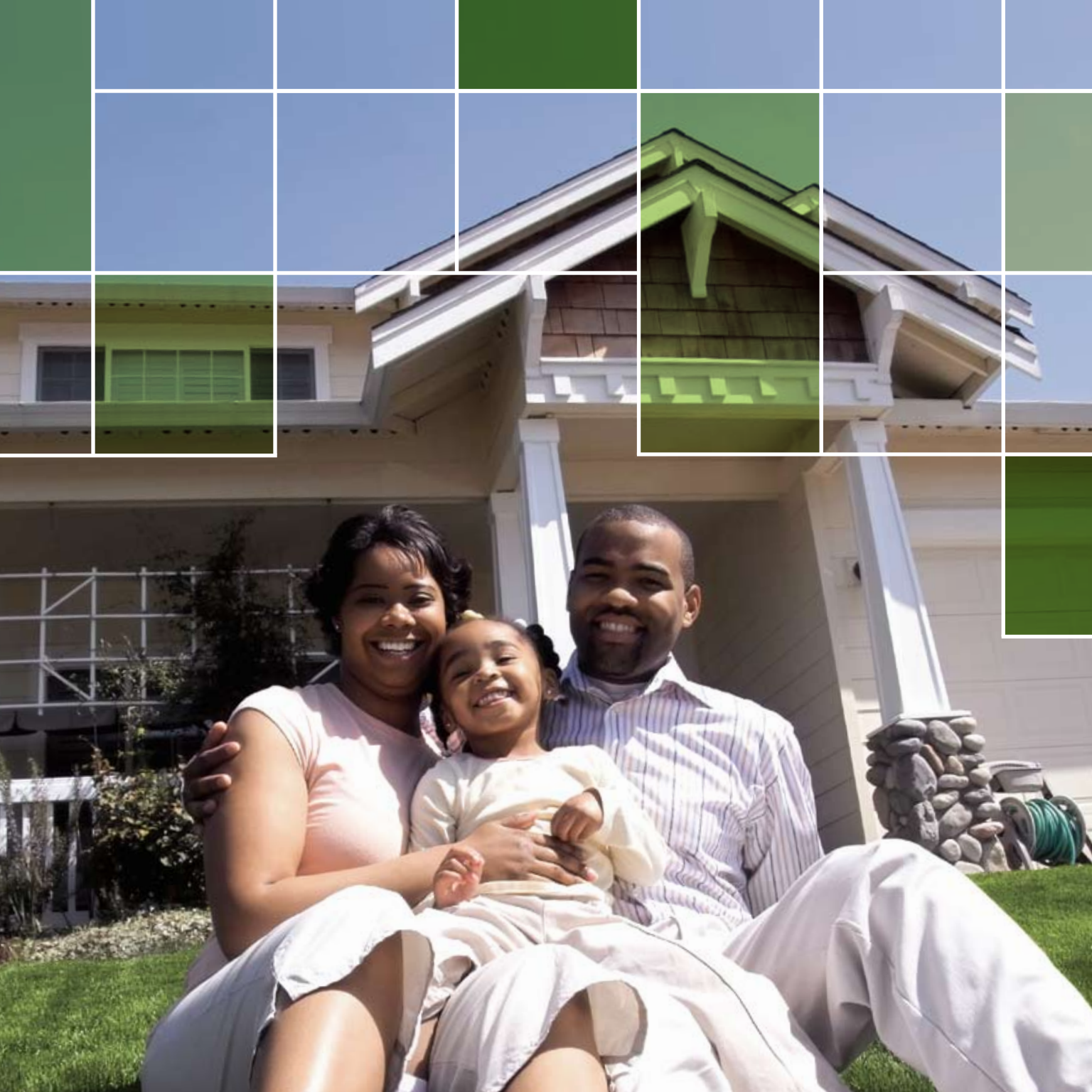


WHOLE HOUSE

A Whole House label is awarded to homes that meet more extensive requirements and have made comprehensive green improvements. A Whole House label means that the home has significantly improved its energy efficiency and environmental impact compared to homes of a similar vintage.

**Make a big
difference,
even with the
smallest remodel.**





Make your remodel rewarding in every sense of the word.



The benefits of remodeling green

A remodel can be an investment in your home and more—it can be an investment in the future as well. With green remodeling choices, you can add value to your home and make a real contribution to our shared environment.

COMFORT

A GreenPoint Rated home will be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer because of its efficient energy systems and quality construction. The air inside will be healthier because of the materials and processes used.

VALUE

GreenPoint Rated Existing Home looks at your whole house, providing a blueprint for extending the benefits of using green practices and materials to the rest of your home. GreenPoint Rated also helps you lower utility and maintenance bills, and provides a third-party evaluation of your home that can increase its resale value.

PRIDE

Having a GreenPoint Rated house shows the care and thoughtfulness you put into making a home for yourself and your family. A GreenPoint Rated home is crafted from Earth-friendly materials that are meant to last. It's a home that makes a positive contribution to the environment.

Take a tour of these **GreenPoint Rated** homes



A small remodel with big results

When Anita Levitch decided to remodel her 1906 home, she planned on making some simple changes that would be environmentally responsible and not wasteful. The scope of the remodel involved changing the floor plan to expand the kitchen and add an additional bathroom.

Anita and her architect were able to implement several energy-conservation measures, including insulating hot water lines and adding a point-of-use water pump. Other green features included new interior transoms to allow more daylight into the center of the home, recycled-content decking, and salvaged antique heart pine flooring. Formaldehyde-free recycled-content cotton insulation and a central vacuum system were installed, which contribute to better indoor air quality. And in the kitchen they used natural linoleum for the floors.

Because of their careful planning this home now qualifies for the Elements label.





Green from top to bottom

When architect Gregg Bowman bought his house in the Berkeley hills, he recognized a hidden gem. And while Bowman thoroughly updated the house, he diligently worked with much of the existing shell rather than tearing it down. It was labor intensive to straighten studs and shim sagging joists to achieve reasonably square walls and level floors, but it helped keep construction and demolition waste to a bare minimum. He reconfigured the space to bring in more light and improve air flow. The roof's unshaded south-facing orientation proved ideal for a photovoltaic system. The home also incorporated the following items to help it achieve its GreenPoint Rating:

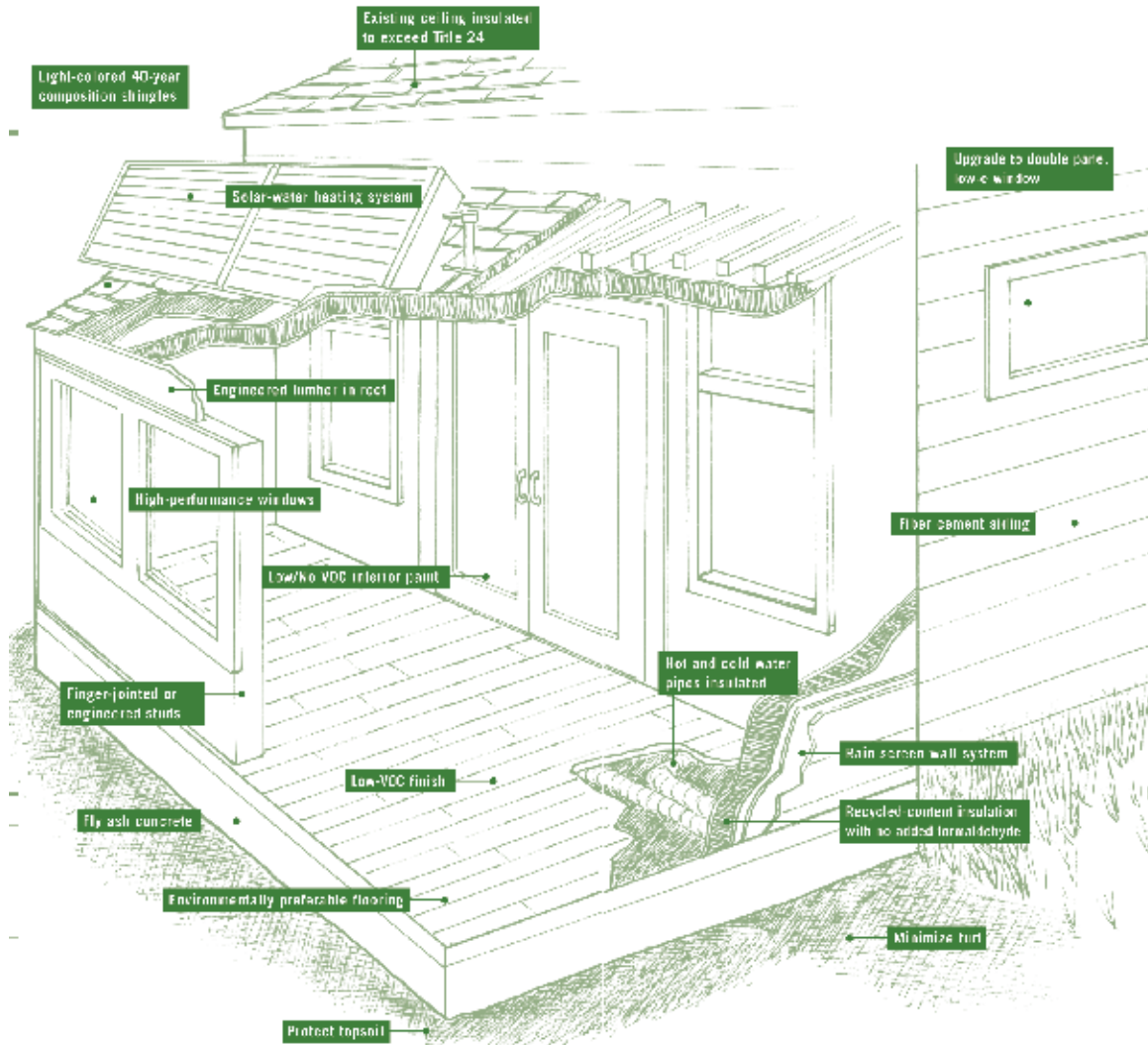
- Updated double pane, low-e windows
- Hydronic radiant-floor heat
- Spray-foam insulation
- Forest Stewardship Council cabinetry and interior doors
- Built-in recycling center

Based on these extensive improvements, Gregg's home achieves a Whole House label.



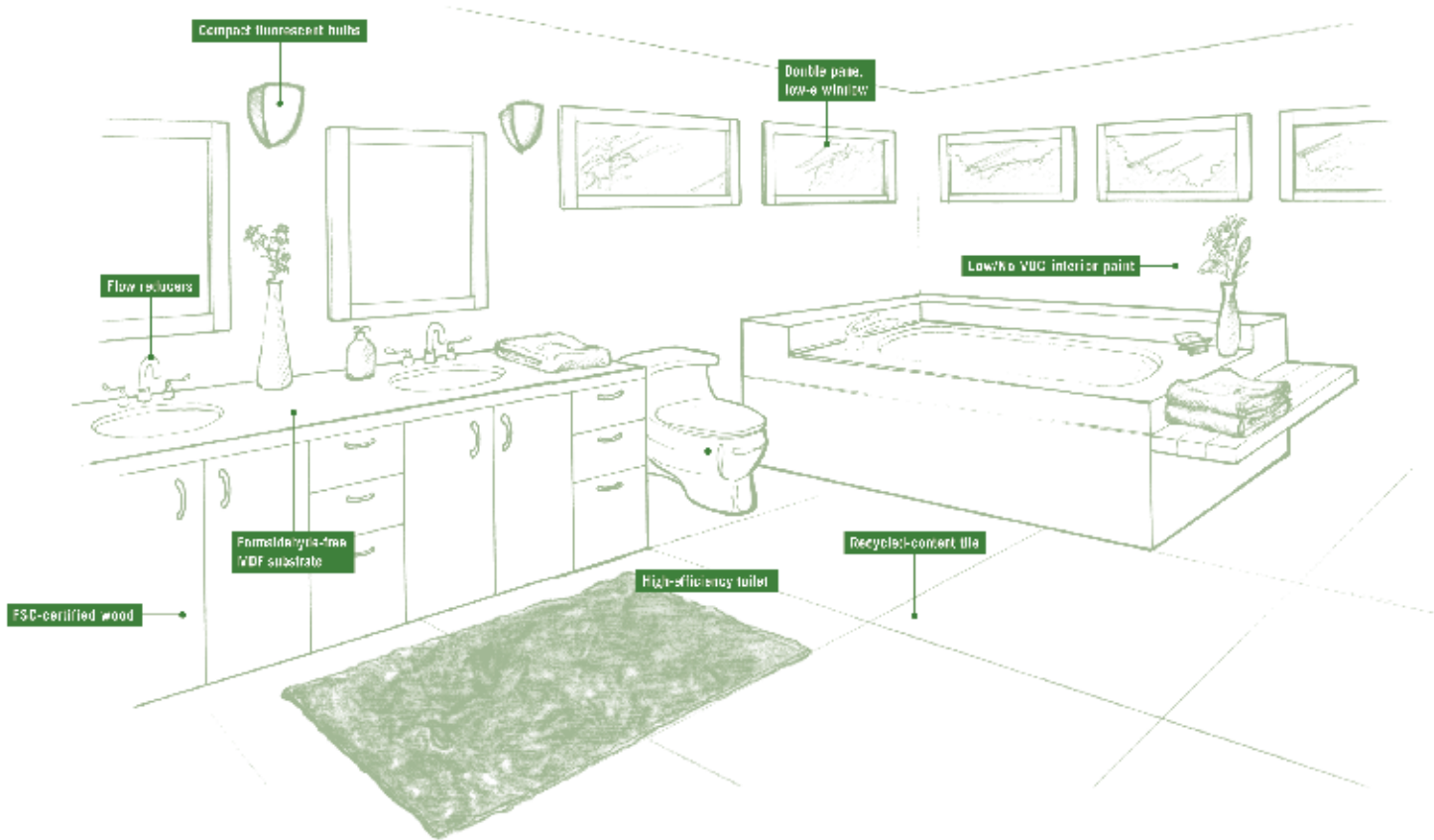
Addition or Major Remodel

Consider these green remodeling options when building an addition or renovating a major portion of the home.



Bathroom Remodel

Consider these green remodeling options in a bathroom.

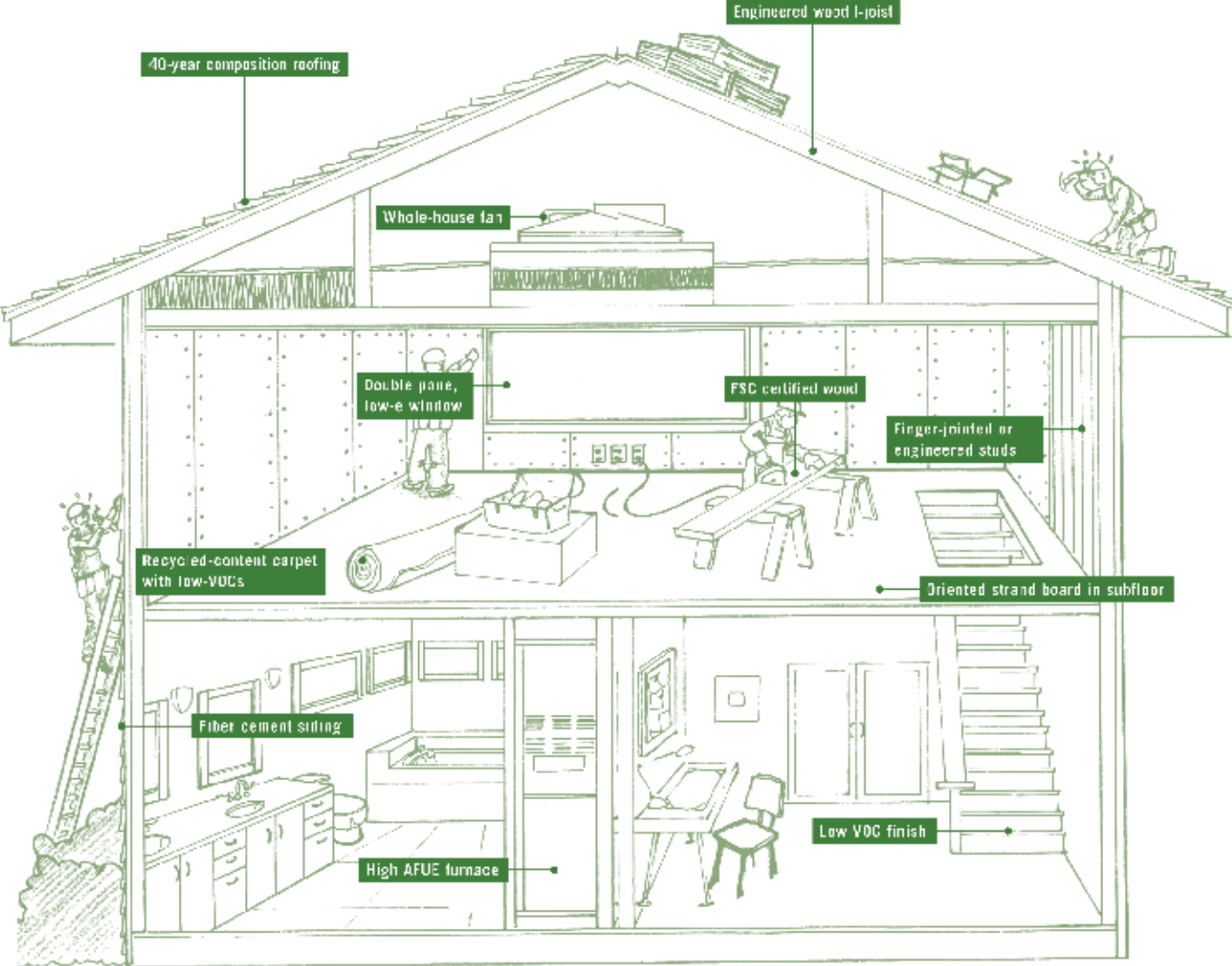


These illustrations show some of the steps you can take to make your remodel greener.

For more details and further ideas, visit: www.builditgreen.org/greenpoint-rated/guidelines

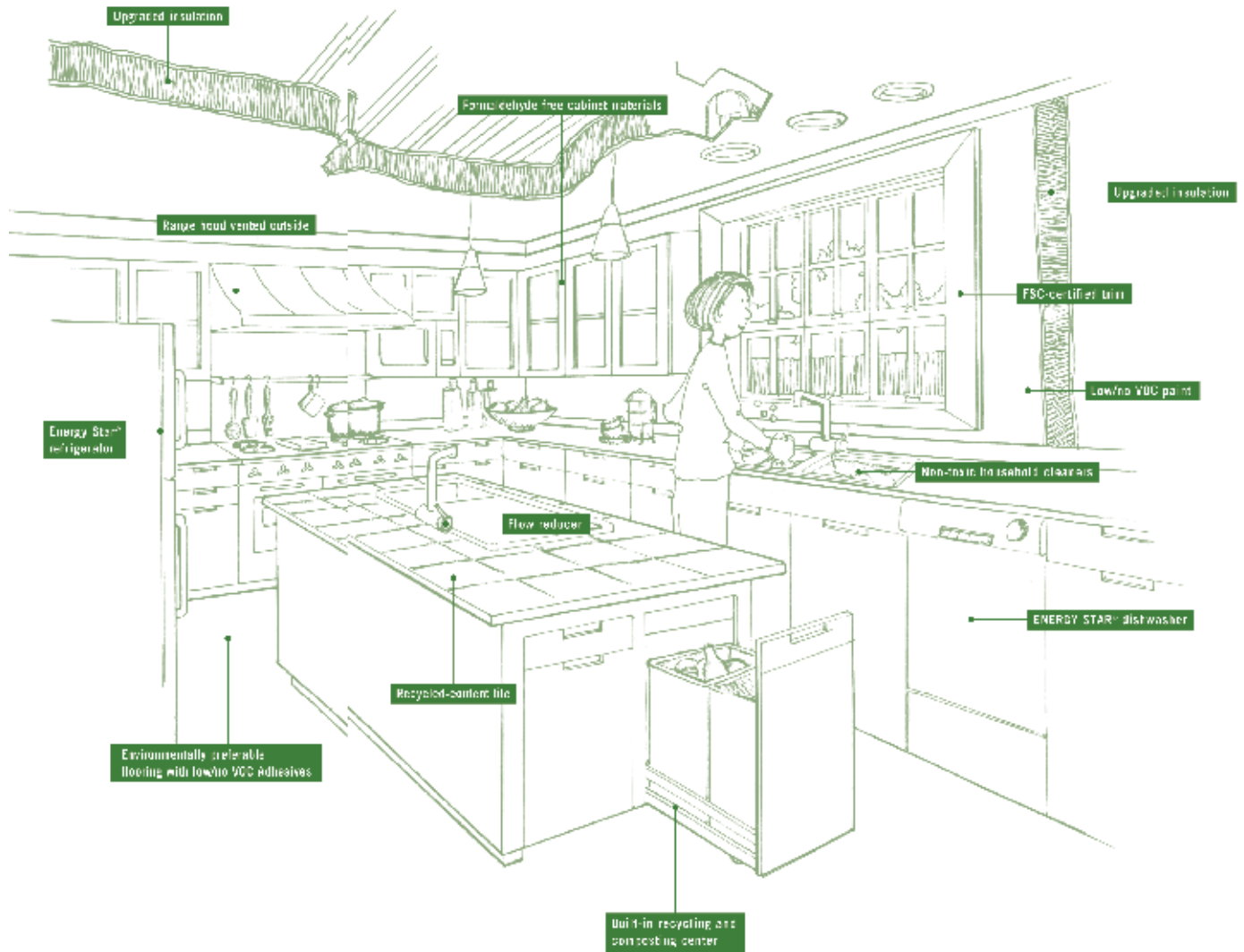
Second Floor

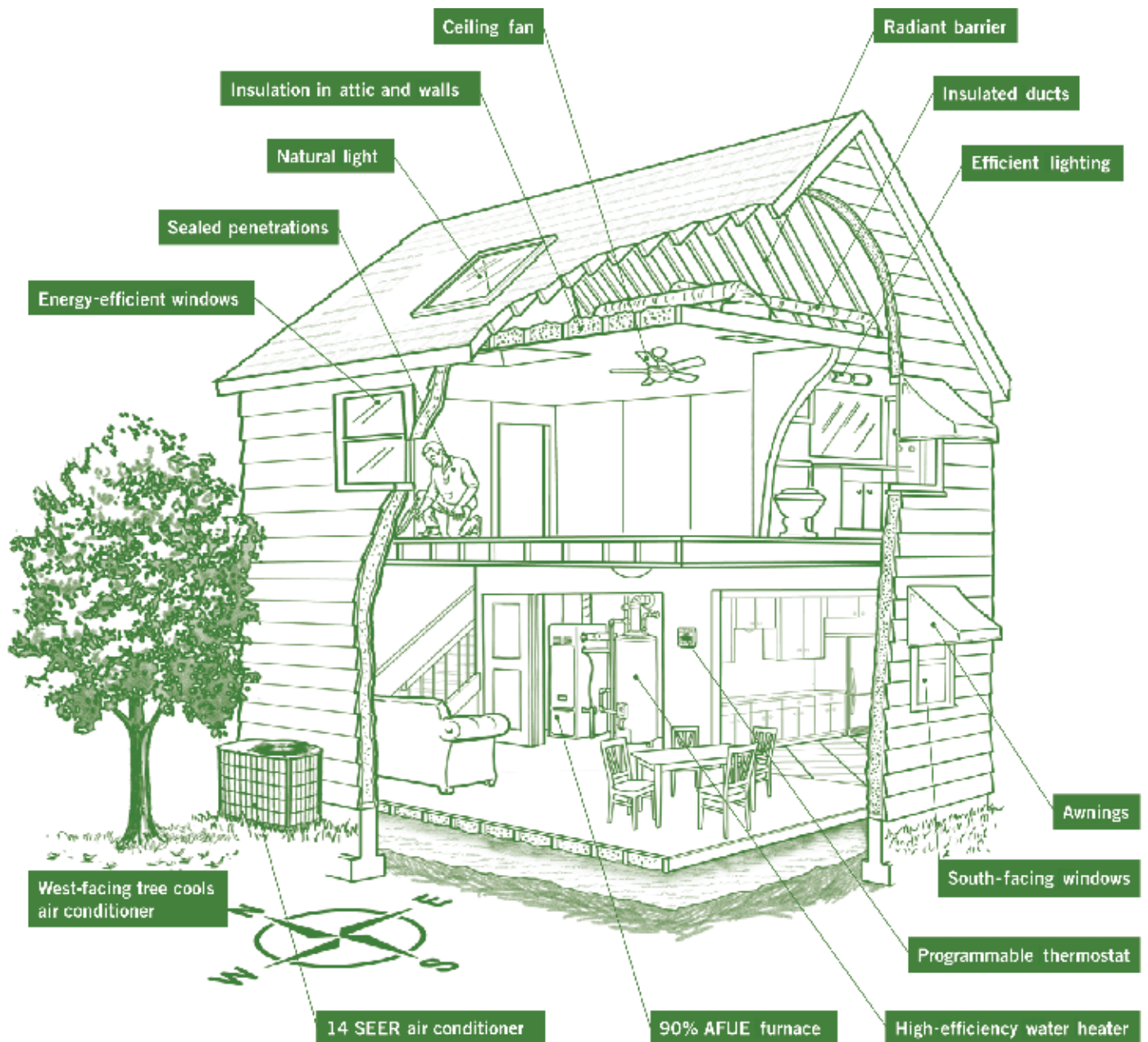
Consider these green remodeling options in a second-floor addition.



Kitchen Remodel

Consider these green remodeling options in a kitchen.





How can you be certain your remodel is **healthy** and **green**?

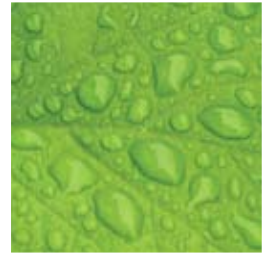
Make sure it's
GreenPoint Rated.

Getting Started

Making the decision to go green isn't difficult. In fact, GreenPoint Rated makes it easy. Bringing on a GreenPoint Rater before you decide the scope of your remodel job can help you prioritize your home improvements. In the process of selecting your architect or contractor, ask about their green qualifications. Let them know that you would like a GreenPoint Rater to evaluate your home's potential and conduct the green rating. If you're already working with a green contractor, they may be able to refer you to a GreenPoint Rater. Every step of the way, the GreenPoint Rater can advise you and your contractor on making the most of your green remodeling project.

For a directory of GreenPoint Raters, visit www.GreenPointRated.org.

To find a green contractor on the Certified Green Building Professional list, visit www.BuildItGreen.org.



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A PROGRAM OF BUILD IT GREEN

For more information, please go to GreenPointRated.org