



“[Living in a green community] means thinking about future generations and how to keep the world a beautiful place.”

—Community HousingWorks Resident

“Now that my unit is more energy efficient, I can for the first time in my adult life afford rent and utilities on my own. The updates that were made not only save me money but also give me assurance the Westside Housing Organization cares about their residents and the well-being of our family.”

—Westside Housing Organization Resident

Visit [www.nw.org/green](http://www.nw.org/green) for more information on the NeighborWorks Green Organization program.



**NEIGHBORWORKS™  
GREEN ORGANIZATIONS**  
A Comprehensive Commitment to Sustainable Operations



**GREEN BENEFITS ARE REAL BENEFITS.**

- Energy and water use becomes more efficient and affordable
- Waste declines and recycling increases
- Indoor and outdoor environments promote health today and over the long term.

The bottom line: Residents are healthier, homes are more affordable, communities are more sustainable, and organizations are more prepared for the future.



Every day, NeighborWorks Green Organizations are answering the question, “How do the residents we serve benefit from green homes and communities?” Here’s how.



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**NEIGHBORWORKS™ GREEN ORGANIZATION**  
A comprehensive commitment to sustainable operations

*NeighborWorks America is one of the country's preeminent leaders in affordable housing and community development. We work to create opportunities for lower-income people to live in affordable homes in safe, sustainable neighborhoods that are healthy places for families to grow. NeighborWorks delivers many of its community-focused programs and services through the national NeighborWorks network - 235 independent, community-based nonprofit organizations serving more than 4,500 communities nationwide.*

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**Working Together for Strong Communities**

**NeighborWorks™ AMERICA**



# LEADING THE WAY TO A GREENER FUTURE



**“In 1995, the vision was to rid the community of blight. And today, the vision of this community is about being the most sustainable green community in Philadelphia. Greening, and the partnership through which we’ve done the greening work with New Kensington CDC, has played a huge role in bringing back this neighborhood into a thriving place that’s a destination community now.”**

—Maitreyi Roy, Vice President of Programs, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

**“At Community Housing Partners, we understand that the words ‘affordable’ and ‘green’ are not mutually exclusive terms, and that our responsibility to our communities includes a responsibility to our planet—it’s just part of the DNA of our organization.”**

—Janaka Casper, Community Housing Partners Executive Director



## THE PROGRAM'S GREEN ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES FOCUS ON:

- Organizational Commitment
- Internal Operations
- Homeownership Education and Counseling
- Lending
- New Construction
- Multifamily Rehabilitation
- Single-family Rehabilitation
- Asset and Property Management
- Owner and Resident Awareness
- Community Building and Organizing

Through the NeighborWorks Green Organization program, NeighborWorks America supports the comprehensive commitment to sustainable operations conducted by its member organizations that can extend social, financial, health, and environmental benefits of green homes and housing practices to thousands of communities and tens of thousands of individuals and families.

The program **defines** green standards in specific areas; **builds** capacity through training, technical and financial support; and **recognizes** the achievements of our network member organizations. To be a designated NeighborWorks Green Organization requires an organization to infuse green strategies throughout their day-to-day business practices, as well as their programs and services.

NeighborWorks believes that sustainability goes far beyond green construction. Greening can impact a community at its core, transforming not only the physical environment that residents work and live in, but their quality of life, personal health and sense of empowerment.

The NeighborWorks Green Organization Program is about promoting financial security, creating healthier living and working environments, conserving resources, and building towards a more sustainable future—both for residents and for our organizations.



**Homewise of Santa Fe, New Mexico**, and its Homewise Homes™ incorporate environmentally beneficial features that allow the homes to demand 40 percent less water and energy than those built by standard code. All Homewise Homes™ are ENERGY STAR® certified as well as Gold level LEED-certified and in conformance with the ANSI National Green Building Standard. The Homewise model home, Rincon del Sol, earned the 2011 Most Energy-Efficient Award from the Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association.



**Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership in Slayton, Minnesota**, works with households that have long suffered from health and safety problems, ranging from chemical and particle contaminants to poor ventilation. Many also experience a lack of green space and access to community services. Through its Healthy Homes + Healthy Communities initiative, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership addresses these immediate and long-term issues through five comprehensive strategies: education, design and development, referral and intervention planning, policy, and green building.



**“NeighborWorks of Western Vermont believes being green is the right thing to do for the environment, and best thing to do for our clients, our staff, and our future. It’s a win-win-win-win.”**

— Mary Cohen, Homeownership Center Director, NWWVT.



**NeighborWorks Umpqua in Roseburg, Oregon**, initiated and owns Heartwood ReSources, a nonprofit recycling store which provides affordable, sustainable building materials; jobs and job training for low-income individuals; and public education on environmental stewardship. From 2003 to 2012, Heartwood’s reclaim and reuse strategy kept nearly 2,400 tons of material waste from homes, barns and other buildings from entering landfills.

**“NeighborWorks believes that families thrive when they live in sustainable, healthy homes and communities.**

— Eileen Fitzgerald, CEO, NeighborWorks America

