



# Understanding Green Building Standards

An overview of approaches for single and multifamily new construction homes.

	MEETS CODE	EXCEEDS CODE Voluntary unless adopted by local jurisdictions.	
	CALGreen 2019	GreenPoint Rated v8.2	LEED for Homes v4.1
Project Type	New Construction & Additions	New Construction & Gut Rehabs*	New Construction & Gut Rehabs
Verification Designee	Building Department	Third Party Green Rater	Third Party Provider + Third Party Green Rater
Process	1. Plan Check 2. Inspection Reports or Other Methods Acceptable by Enforcing Authority	1. Plan Check 2. Construction Verification 3. Performance Testing	1. Preliminary Rating during Conceptual Design 2. Construction Verification 3. Performance Testing
Points Possible	None	Up to 300	Up to 110
Levels	CALGreen Mandatory (CA)	Platinum (140+ points) Gold (110 - 139 points) Silver (80-109 points) Certified (50 - 79 points)	Platinum (80+ points) Gold (60 - 79 points) Silver (50-59 points) Certified (40 - 49 points)
Certification	None	GreenPoint Rated 	LEED Certified 
Special Designation	None	GreenPoint Rated Low Carbon Home	LEED Zero
Program Minimums & Prerequisites (see reverse for details)	Code required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point minimums in each of 5 categories &amp; minimum total points.</li> <li>5 prerequisites for Single Family</li> <li>6 prerequisites for Multifamily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point minimums in each of 7 categories &amp; minimum total points.</li> <li>16 prerequisites for Single Family</li> <li>16 prerequisites for Multifamily</li> </ul>

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PREREQUISITES	Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storm water drainage and retention during construction</li> <li>Management of surface water flow through planned grading and paving</li> </ul>	CALGreen Mandatory (CA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floodplain avoidance</li> <li>Construction activity pollution prevention</li> <li>No invasive plants</li> </ul>
	Water	Develop water budget conforming to local or California Landscape Ordinance.	CALGreen Mandatory (CA)	Water metering
	Energy	Meet Title 24 Part 6 Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed fuel - Min. total EDR based on climate zone (6-10). high-rise: compliance margin 10%+ over T24.</li> <li>All electric - meet efficiency EDR based on climate zone (0-5). high-rise: meet T24</li> <li>Annual energy use - min. 20% compliance based on annual energy use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum energy performance: Energy Star for Homes + Energy Star appliances + fully ducted</li> <li>Energy metering</li> <li>Home size adjuster</li> </ul>
	Material	Waste diversion – 65%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CALGreen Mandatory (CA)</li> <li>Durable roofing {multifamily}</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified tropical wood</li> <li>Durability management (water management &amp; moisture control)</li> </ul>
	Health	VOC limits on finishes and materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CALGreen Mandatory (CA)</li> <li>Meet ASHRAE 62.2-2016 ventilation standards</li> <li>Radon Resistant Construction in EPA Radon Zone 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet ASHRAE 62.2-2016 ventilation standards</li> <li>Combustion venting (including CO sensors, enclosed fireplaces)</li> <li>Garage pollution prevention</li> <li>Radon resistant construction</li> <li>Air filtering (MERV 8 or 6)</li> <li>Environmental tobacco</li> <li>Smoke control</li> <li>Compartmentalization between units</li> </ul>
	Other	CALGreen Mandatory (CA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green appraisal addendum</li> <li>GreenPoint Rated checklist in blueprints</li> <li>CALGreen Mandatory (CA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary rating</li> <li>Education of homeowner, tenant or building owner</li> </ul>

\* GreenPoint Rated New Home projects located outside of California are subject to different prerequisites.

This document is based on a comparison originally prepared by StopWaste. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, be advised that information may change, and that some comparisons are based on professional judgment by Build It Green.

**References:**

GreenPoint Rated, Version 8.2, [www.builditgreen.org/greenpoint-rated](http://www.builditgreen.org/greenpoint-rated)

CALGreen 2019: California Green Building Standards Code California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11 (California Department of Housing and Community Development), [www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov)

LEED for Homes v4: [www.usgbc.org/credits/homes/v4](http://www.usgbc.org/credits/homes/v4); LEED Zero: [usgbc.org/programs/leed-zero](http://usgbc.org/programs/leed-zero)