

BIA/OC GREEN BUILDING AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Building Industry Association/Orange County Chapter (BIA/OC) firmly believes in the use and implementation of Green Building and Sustainability practices because they add value and benefit to the construction of new homes in California.

Our Association strongly supports the California Residential Green Building Standards developed by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and adopted by the California Building Standards Commission (BSC). To achieve greater Green Building efficiencies which exceed the mandatory levels prescribed by HCD, BIA/OC supports the elective use of two non-governmental residential Green Building programs:

- The GreenPoint Rated program.
- The California Green Builder Program (CGB).

By encouraging the use and implementation of these elective programs, the builders of BIA/OC are accelerating the environmental benefit derived from these sustainable building practices. Recognizing that these programs evolve over time, BIA/OC also believes that each city developing independent programs will actually be counterproductive and result in excessive costs for a marginal return.

Through sound policies and efficient construction, the members of BIA/OC are making a positive impact on the sustainability of our communities for future generations through quality construction and sustainable technologies.

BIA/OC recognizes that existing residential and commercial structures built before 1990 are significantly less energy and resource efficient than contemporary buildings. Substantial resource conservation and environmental benefits can be achieved by retrofitting these structures. New housing construction represents only 1-2% of the total housing stock. As such, it is imperative to encourage environmental retrofits on the other 98-99% of the existing housing stock to achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions.

BIA/OC will actively engage it's membership in the ever evolving field of resource and energy conservation, and continue to seek ways to work with local agencies and other stakeholders, to further the sustainability goals of the County.