GOING GREEN ON THE WESTSIDE

A Green Living Guide for West Baton Rouge Parish
Dear WBR Residents,

West Baton Rouge Parish is a wonderful place to live and has taken many steps to becoming a cleaner, healthier parish. We all know to truly reach high goals all residents and businesses need to do their part.

This guide includes a wide spectrum of information ranging from saving energy, to recycling and important phone numbers. This guide will help you find the information you need to reduce your impact on the environment, save money, and improve your health.

Please take a few minutes to read thru this guide to familiarize yourself with its content. Together we can continue to “Love Where We Live” helping to ensure that West Baton Rouge Parish will be a healthy and clean place for generations to come.

Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot
West Baton Rouge Parish President

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**Recycle Westside**

**Frequently Asked Questions About Recycling Programs**

Check [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://www.wbrcouncil.org), often for updates to frequently asked questions.

**How do I get a recycling cart?**
West Baton Rouge Parish Residents can Call the Utilities Department (225) 336-2406 Residents in the City of Port Allen can Call (225) 346-5670

**What time should I put out my recycling cart?**
Put your recycling cart out the night before your cart is to be picked up.

**Which day should I set out my recycling cart?**
- For areas North of the Intracoastal, including Erwinville & Rosedale Road (NOT INCLUDING the City of Port Allen): Carts will be picked up every Monday.
- For areas South of the Intracoastal, including Hwy 1 continuing East to the border: Carts will be picked up every Tuesday.
- For areas South of the Intracoastal, including Hwy 1 continuing West to the border: Carts will be picked up every Wednesday.
- For areas within the Port Allen City Limits: Carts will be picked up every Thursday.

**What should I do if the recycling truck accidentally misses my weekly pick-up?**
West Baton Rouge Parish Residents can Call the Utilities Department 336-2406 Residents in the City of Port Allen can Call 346-5670

**Can I recycle magazines, junk mail, newspaper inserts, and phone books?**
Yes, place these items loose, not bagged, in your recycling cart.

**What happens to the recyclables after they are collected?**
Recyclables collected at curbside pickup are transported to The Recycling Foundation at 7923 Tom Drive. There materials are separated, baled, and shipped off to be processed into new recycled products such as newsprint, insulation, carpet, clothing, construction materials, tin and aluminum cans.

**Do local businesses accept items for recycling?**
The chart on pages 9-11 lists local businesses that accept recyclable materials.

**Where can I recycle my used computer?**
The Capital Area Corporate Recycling Council (CACRC) accepts computers and many other electronics.

**Can I place recyclables in a plastic bag before placing in my recycling cart?**
No, items should be placed loose in the cart. Plastic bags are not accepted for recycling.
What goes in your recycling cart:

**PLASTIC**
- Plastic with #1 through #7 inside the triangular shaped recycling symbol, beverage bottles, food containers, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, prescription bottles, baby wipe containers, household cleaner and bleach bottles, flower pots, buckets (5-gallon or less, remove metal handles)
- NO plastic bags, hangers, toys, 6-pack rings, chemical containers, packing materials, plastic wrap, Styrofoam

**PAPER**
- Junk mail, coupons, white or colored paper, gift wrap, envelopes, paper grocery bags, shopping bags (remove handles), catalogs, magazines, newspapers and inserts (remove rubber bands and plastic bags, do not tie up newspapers), paperback books, telephone book, shredded paper (place in paper bag or clear plastic bag)
- NO soiled paper, photos, hardcover books, carbon paper, newspaper delivery bags or rubber bands

**GLASS**
- Clear, brown and green beverage bottles and food jars, wine bottles (remove top, cork and foil, rinse)
- NO light bulbs, mirrors, window glass, drinking glasses, ceramics, Pyrex

**CARDBOARD**
- Corrugated and paperboard boxes, 6, 12 and 24-pack drink cartons (flattened), paper egg cartons, grocery bags, pizza boxes, packing material, waxed cardboard or boxes with plastic or foil linings
- NO pizza boxes, plastic or foam packing material, waxed cardboard or boxes with plastic or foil linings

**METAL**
- Aluminum, tin and metal alloy beverage, food and pet food cans, metal lids, aluminum foil, aluminum pie pans
- NO aerosol cans, wire hangers, non-food metal containers

**CARTONS**
- Juice, milk and cream boxes and cartons (rinse), cereal and cracker boxes (remove liners)
- NO waxy frozen food packaging, take-out food containers, pizza boxes

Empty and rinse containers. Remove all tops and lids from non-metal containers and discard.

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What to do with Phone Books?

Simply place your old phone books in your recycling cart on your regular collection day. The phone books will be taken to The Recycling Foundation’s recycling processing facility where the telephone books will be sorted with other paper products. Old telephone books (AT&T/ The Real Yellow Pages and the Sunshine Pages) may be recycled year-round in your recycling cart. Businesses with large quantities of telephone books may take them to The Recycling Foundation at 7923 Tom Drive.

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Recycle All Your Paper. All the time.

Paper makes up 35% of materials that households throw away. Don’t forget that all paper – catalogs, magazines, junk mail, cereal boxes, larger cardboard boxes and even your children’s “almost-masterpieces” – is a valuable resource that can be recycled.

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Did You Know?

Plastics are typically classified by one of seven numbers found inside the triangular recycling symbol. This number identifies the type of plastic used to manufacture the item. The West Baton Rouge curbside program accepts all plastic food containers and beverage bottles labeled #1-#7 except Styrofoam.

**1: Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET or PETE)** - used in 2-liter soda bottles, water bottles, cooking oil bottles, peanut butter jars.

**2: High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)** - used in detergent bottles, milk and water jugs, yogurt cups.

**3: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC or V)** - used in water bottles, liquid detergent containers.

**4: Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)** - used in food storage containers.

**5: Polypropylene (PP)** - used in ketchup bottles, yogurt containers.

**6: Polystyrene (PS)** - used in meat trays, many to-go containers, egg cartons. Styrofoam is #6 but is NOT accepted for recycling. It goes in your regular trash.

**7: Other** - used in 3- and 5-gallon reusable water bottles, Tupperware, biodegradable and compostable plastics.
Managing Household Hazardous Waste

Frequently Asked Questions About Household Hazardous Materials

When is the next Household Hazardous Material (HHM) Collection Day?

HHM collections take place annually in the Spring. Check www.wbrcouncil.org for the specific date and location.

Why should I bring HHM to the Collection Day?

When improperly handled and disposed, household hazardous materials can harm the environment and pose health and safety threats to you, your pets and sanitation workers. Never throw household hazardous products in the garbage, down the sink or toilet, into a storm drain or on the ground.

What do I do if I miss the HHM Collection Day?

Many household hazardous materials can be recycled locally year-round.

What makes a household product hazardous?

- **Toxic** products are poisonous or cause long-term illness.
- **Flammable** means the product burns easily. Look for the words “do not use near heat or flame,” “combustible” or “do not smoke while using this product.”
- **Corrosive** products will eat through materials. Look for labels with “causes severe burns on contact” and “can burn eyes, skin or throat.”
- **Reactive** means the product can explode, start fires or cause dangerous reactions when exposed to heat, air, water or shock impact.

Did You Know?

Looking for other options to sell, buy or recycle used electronics? Check out EcoSquid.com, an easy search engine for consumers to find convenient options for selling, buying or recycling used electronics. For additional options for donating or recycling old computer and other electronic products go to the EPA electronics recycling resource page at www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/ecycling/index.htm.

If the label has any of the following terms it is hazardous: Caution • Warning • Danger • Poison • Hazardous • Harmful • Fatal • Keep out of reach of children • Fatal if swallowed • If swallowed call a physician or 911

Examples: Pesticides, paint thinners, some automotive products and cleaning supplies

Since computers cannot be placed at the curb where can I dispose of them?

- Household batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent bulbs and tubes are hazardous waste and cannot be thrown away in the trash.

How should batteries, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes be discarded?

Household batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent bulbs and tubes are hazardous waste and cannot be thrown away in the trash.

Why Is Using Non-Toxic Cleaning Products Better for the Environment?

- Using non-toxic commercial cleaning products and such products as vinegar and baking soda minimize exposure to toxins and provide healthier indoor environments.
- Buying concentrated cleaners saves money and creates fewer large plastic containers to dispose of.

Eco-labels help guide consumers in purchasing products with reduced environmental impact but it’s important to know what they mean. (For more information visit www.greenerchoices.org/eco-labels/)

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. EPA, American households generate 1.6 tons of household hazardous waste (HHW) per year. The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds of HHW in basements, garages and storage closets.

Household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly by individuals pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The dangers of such disposal methods have the potential to:

- Cause physical injury to sanitation workers
- Contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets
- Pollute bodies of water if poured into storm sewers
- Present hazards to children and pets if left around the house
- Contaminate ground water and surface water that is used as a source of drinking water if sent to unprotected landfills

Did You Know?

Used motor oil is hazardous waste and cannot go into your curbside garbage or trash for pickup. Do not pour used motor oil into storm drains or water systems. One gallon of motor oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of water, so it is important to dispose of oil properly.

When changing your car’s motor oil and filters, take it to one of the local household hazardous materials recyclers listed in the chart on page 6, or to the Spring household hazardous materials collection at the Louis Mouch Jr., Multi-Purpose Facility.
Recycle computers at the CACRC in downtown Baton Rouge. The CACRC also offers used computers to low income families.

### What the CACRC accepts for recycling:
- Computer hardware
- Computer Accessories (mice, keyboards, speakers, etc.)
- Laptops
- Telephones
- Telephone systems
- Security systems
- Cell phones/bag phones
- DVD Movies & Video games
- MP3 Players
- XBoxes, Playstations, Wii
- Digital Cameras & Digital Video Recorders (DVRs)
- Digital Picture Frames
- Stereos
- Beepers/Pagers
- Networking equipment
- Fax machines
- Circuit boards (of any type)
- Processors
- Monitors
- Telephone and computer cables
- uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)
- Printers
- Toner cartridges
- Ink jet cartridges
- Portable Navigation & GPS Devices (such as Garmin, Magellan, Tom-Tom)

### What the CACRC does not accept:
- Appliances
- Copiers
- Televisions
- Furniture

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**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION DAY**

*West Baton Rouge residents only, no commerical waste accepted*

**Held in the Spring at the Lousi Mouch, Jr. Multi-Purpose Arena**

152 Turner Road, Port Allen

**MATERIALS ACCEPTED**

- Acids
- Aerosol Cans
- Arsenic
- Auto products including used oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, diesel, oil & fuel filters, gasoline, gas & oil mixtures
- Cooking oil
- Glycerol, glycerin
- Batteries including NiCd, lead acid, alkaline, rechargeable
- Bleach, bowl cleaners
- Bug sprays
- Wood preservatives
- Cleaning solvents
- Corrosive cleaners
- Degreasers
- Disinfectants
- Paint thinner
- Paint: oil, stain, varnish, shellac
- Fluorescent tubes & compact fluorescent bulbs
- Glue
- Lawn and garden products including pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizer
- Lighter fluid
- Metallic mercury
- Moth balls
- Oven cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Turpentine
- Polishes
- Pool chemicals
- TVs & stereos
- Automobile tires (limit 5)
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Video tapes, floppy disks, digital tapes, CDs and DVDs

**MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED**

- Ammunition & explosives
- Fireworks
- Latex paint
- Non-Residential waste
- Radioactive devices (smoke/fire detectors)
- Large gas cylinders such as helium, freon or acetylene
- Styrofoam including peanuts
- Construction/demolition debris
- School lab waste
- Fire extinguishers
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Power tools
- All liquids in containers larger than 5 gallons
- Electronic equipment: computers, copiers, cell phones, fax machines, & ink cartridges
- Medical waste/all medicines

Liquids should be labeled and in closed containers no larger than 5 gallons

**West Baton Rouge residents only, no commercial waste accepted.**

For more information visit www.wbrcouncil.org

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**SPONSORS & PARTNERS**

**DOW Chemical, Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful, Town of Addis, Town of Brusly, City of Port Allen, and the West Baton Rouge Parish Government.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Usable latex paint/full cans only</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>4301 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>355-1895</td>
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<td>Automotive batteries</td>
<td>Auto Zone</td>
<td>All Locations</td>
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<td>Interstate Batteries</td>
<td>11075 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>925-3711</td>
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<td>Pep Boys</td>
<td>9704 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>927-6233</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rapid Lube &amp; Tune-up</td>
<td>5615 Essen Lane</td>
<td>767-5754</td>
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<td>Regions Wholesale Battery</td>
<td>6215 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>355-8545</td>
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<td></td>
<td>River City Battery Supply</td>
<td>11353 Greenwell Springs Rd.</td>
<td>275-1285</td>
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<td>Simple Simon Car Care</td>
<td>7777 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>927-2311</td>
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<td>Simple Simon Car Care</td>
<td>12116 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>751-3656</td>
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<td>Southern Recycling</td>
<td>6847 Scenic Hwy.</td>
<td>355-4453</td>
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<td>Wal-Mart Tire &amp; Lube</td>
<td>All Tire &amp; Lube Centers</td>
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<td>Wholesale Battery Co. Inc.</td>
<td>9266 Mammoth Ave.</td>
<td>926-4693</td>
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<td>Used motor oil</td>
<td>Auto Zone</td>
<td>All Locations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brusly Town Hall</td>
<td>600 S. Vaughn Dr. Brusly</td>
<td>749-2909</td>
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<td>Pep Boys</td>
<td>9704 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>927-6233</td>
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<td>Express Care Automotive</td>
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<td>Express Care Automotive</td>
<td>5960 S. Sherwood Forest</td>
<td>368-2273</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rapid Lube &amp; Tune Up</td>
<td>5615 Essen Lane</td>
<td>767-5754</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FCC environmental</td>
<td>697 Hwy. 167, Opelousas</td>
<td>800-960-6377</td>
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<td>FCC environmental</td>
<td>1122 US Hwy. 90 W., Port Allen</td>
<td>800-960-6377</td>
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<td>Motor oil &amp; gasoline mixtures</td>
<td>FCC environmental</td>
<td>697 Hwy. 167, Opelousas</td>
<td>800-960-6377</td>
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<td>800-960-6377</td>
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<td>Oil Filters</td>
<td>Pep Boys Automotive</td>
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<td>5389 Government St.</td>
<td>922-9299</td>
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<td>Anti-freeze</td>
<td>Brusly Town Hall</td>
<td>600 S. Vaughn Dr. Brusly</td>
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<td>Simple Simon Car Care</td>
<td>12116 Airline Hwy.</td>
<td>751-3656</td>
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<td>Used cooking oil</td>
<td>Brusly Town Hall</td>
<td>600 S. Vaughn Dr. Brusly</td>
<td>749-2909</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FCC environmental</td>
<td>697 Hwy. 167, Opelousas</td>
<td>800-960-6377</td>
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<td>FCC environmental</td>
<td>1122 US Hwy. 90 W., Port Allen</td>
<td>800-960-6377</td>
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<td>Computers</td>
<td>CACRC</td>
<td>800 St. Philip St.</td>
<td>225-379-3577</td>
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<td>Televisions - up to 32”</td>
<td>Best Buy Stores*</td>
<td>All Locations</td>
<td>761-8032</td>
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<td>Mercury devices, thermostats, switches, thermometers, thermocouples, relays</td>
<td>LEI Lamp Recyclers</td>
<td>46257 Morris Rd., Hammond</td>
<td>800-309-9908</td>
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<td>NiCd Batteries</td>
<td>Radio Shack</td>
<td>All Locations</td>
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<td>Batteries all chemistries: alkaline, carbon-zinc lead acid, nickel (iron &amp; cadmium), lithium, mercury, silver oxide, silver zinc, thermal</td>
<td>LEI Lamp Recyclers</td>
<td>46257 Morris Rd., Hammond</td>
<td>800-309-9908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane tanks 4-40 lbs.</td>
<td>All permitted LP-Gas dealers, wholesalers and retailers are required to accept old tanks for refurbishment, recycling or disposal at no charge to the consumer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Used Tires limit 5 tires per person, no businesses</td>
<td>Environmental Industries Recycling Incorporated</td>
<td>7122 Hwy 190 W, Port Allen</td>
<td>344-8298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*10 fee charged, but you get back a $10 Best Buy gift card in return. Limit 2 units per day.
**By appointment only, call first.
How to Safely Discard Leftover Paint

Latex paint is not hazardous
Empty and dried up latex paint cans go in your garbage cart!
Latex paint is non-toxic, you can place empty and dried up paint cans with the lids off into the garbage cart.

Do not put cans with liquid paint out for pick up.

How to dry out latex paint for home disposal:
If you have an inch or paint left in the can, remove the lid and let the paint dry out. Protect from freezing and rain as well as children and animals. This method works best in warm weather.

If there’s more than an inch of paint in the can, mix paint with equal amount of cat litter, stir and let it dry before placing in garbage cart.

After latex paint has dried, place the open cans in your garbage cart.

Oil-based paint is hazardous waste
Completely empty oil-based paint cans with the lids off can go into your garbage cart!

But...

If partially full or full cans of oil-based paint must be taken to a household hazardous collection site for proper disposal

Do not put cans containing oil-based paint out in your cart for pick up.

Unlike latex paint, oil-based paint should not be dried out or solidified. Oil-based paint is flammable whether wet or dry.

Never put flammable products, such as oil-based paint or thinner, down any drain or into the garbage.

Got leftover paint?
Here are some easy ways to reduce the amount of leftover paint:

BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED.
Retailers can help you calculate the right amount of paint for your project. Typically, one gallon of paint will provide one coat for 300 square feet.

BUY LESS FOR THE NEXT PROJECT.
Use leftover paint as a base coat on another project.

SAVE IT FOR A FUTURE USE.
If properly stored, paint stays good for a long time. To prevent paint from drying out, cover the surface with kitchen plastic wrap, then replace the lid securely. Finally, store the paint can upside down in an area where it can’t freeze.

GIVE IT AWAY.
Ask friends, relatives, neighbors, churches, dramatic groups, schools, recreation departments or community organizations if they can use your leftover paint. Only give away paint that is in good condition and in its original container with an intact label.

West Baton Rouge Curbside Recycling 2013

**Large recycle carts implemented in July throughout West Baton Rouge Parish excluding Port Allen within the City Limits**
Garbage Cart    Recycling Cart

**WHEN TO SET OUT CARTS:**
Garbage and recycling carts should be placed out the night before the scheduled service day.

**CART LIDS MUST BE CLOSED:**
Overflowing carts and items placed next to garbage carts will not be collected.

**HOW TO PLACE THE CART AT THE STREET:**
To avoid damage to cart, place at curb with top handle toward house and lid opening toward street.

**KEEP CART CLEAR:**
Move any vehicles blocking carts.

**OVERLOADED CARTS:**
Carts overloaded with heavy materials will not be picked up. Put heavy waste out for several pickups if necessary.

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Here is what may go out on the curb for collection:

**Collected twice a week**

**GARBAGE CART** - BAGGED household garbage including food waste and trash.

**Collected once a week**

**RECYCLING CART** - Household recyclables. No separation or bagging necessary. No garbage, yard waste or woody waste in carts

**Collected Monthly**

**BULKY TRASH, YARD & WOOD WASTE, LEAVES & GRASS** - ONLY RESIDENT-GENERATED WASTE WILL BE PICKED UP. Place these types of waste next to each other. No household garbage, loose or bagged. Do not put waste in ditches.

**BULKY TRASH**:
Items too bulky or heavy to fit in the garbage cart such as furniture, large household items, remodeling debris, mattresses, water heaters, carpet, fencing, lumber. Do not bag.

**YARD AND WOODY WASTE**:
Brush piles, tree limbs no longer than 6 foot by 12 inches around and shrub prunings. Do not bag, place loose at the curb for recycling.

**BAGGED LEAVES AND GRASS**:
Yard waste, leaves & grass left in old garbage cans will not be collected.

**BULKY RECYCLABLES** - White goods: stoves, washers, refrigerators and other large appliances.

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**Here is what will not be collected:**

**NO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** allowed in carts or at curb (paint, chemicals, thinner, batteries, electronics). Go to [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://www.wbrcouncil.org) for a downloadable chart of businesses that accept household hazardous waste year-round. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is held every Spring, look for ads in the local newspaper for specific dates and times.

**NO CONTRACTOR’S TRASH**:
Large trees, woody waste, or home remodeling debris placed at the curb by a tree service or a contractor will not be picked up by Allied Waste or the City-Parish. It is the responsibility of the contractor to haul away its debris. If the contractor refuses or fails to do so, the homeowner must haul away the material.

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**Did you know?**

- The energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a television for 3 hours.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will power a computer for 25 minutes.
- One recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours.
- Recycled paper produces 73% less air pollution than if it was made from raw materials.
- By recycling 1 ton of paper you save....
  - 17 trees
  - 6953 gallons of water
  - 463 gallons of oil
  - 587 pounds of air pollution
  - 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space
  - 4077 kilowatts of energy

**Did You Know?**

The energy required to produce a new computer would run an old computer for 10 years. Recycling a computer system saves the same amount of energy as taking a car off the road for six months.
Waste reduction is the practice of using less materials and energy to minimize waste and preserve natural resources. We can reduce the amount and toxicity of trash we throw away by:

- Donating products, from eyeglasses to clothing, reducing the amount of material manufactured overall
- Reusing products, such as file folders and grocery bags
- Using both sides of paper when photocopying
- Repairing items instead of discarding them
- Recycling as much as possible and buying products with recycled content
- Practicing composting, mulching and grasscycling
- Buying what you need and using it up instead of discarding it
- Practicing energy and water conservation

Guide to Reuse & Reduce Resources

Call businesses to get details, as items and locations may change.
Reduce Your Junk Mail and Junk Faxes!

The average American household receives junk mail equivalent to 1.5 trees every year. That adds up to more than 100 million trees each year.

Some easy steps to take to minimize unwanted mail.

- Contact catalogs and tell them you want your name taken off their list.
- Remove your name from specific catalogs for free by visiting www.CatalogChoice.org.

For more information on reducing junk mail visit www.StopJunkmail.org

- To stop unwanted faxes, contact the sender. If unsuccessful, file a complaint with the Consumer Information Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission: 1-888-225-5322 or on-line at www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/unwantedfaxes.html
Preventing Waste: The Smart Shopping Decision

Packaging is now the fourth largest industry in the U.S. It’s true that some packaging is necessary for health and shelf-life reasons, but some manufacturers over-package products. This creates a lot of waste for the consumer. Whenever we create waste, we’re throwing away valuable resources.

Approximately one third of our household waste comes from the packaging of products. If we think before we buy, and buy just what we need—with reuse in mind—we can help conserve resources while we shop.

The next time you go to the grocery store, look at the products on the shelf. Pick the ones without packaging or with the least wasteful packaging. Avoid single-serving items and products that are overly wrapped.

When you can, buy in bulk. Buy concentrates such as drink mixes, cleaners and detergents. There is far less packaging and they are often much cheaper.
### Did You Know?

- In the U.S., 4.39 pounds of trash per day and up to 56 tons of trash per year are created by the average person.
- Almost 1/3 of the waste generated in the U.S. is packaging.
- Throwing away one aluminum can wastes as much energy as if that can were 1/2 full of gasoline.
- Americans receive almost 4 million tons of junk mail every year.
- Enough hazardous waste is generated in one year to fill the New Orleans Mercedes-Benz Superdome 1,500 times over.
- Forty-three thousand tons of food is thrown out in the United States each day.
- Americans throw out about 270 million tires every year.
- Sixty-five billion aluminum soda cans are used each year.

Source: [www.cleanair.org](http://www.cleanair.org)

### Litter Decomposition Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>2.5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange peel</td>
<td>1-6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette butt</td>
<td>5-6 years; chemicals also leach into water and poison wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk carton (cardboard)</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bag</td>
<td>10-20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic cup lids, utensils</td>
<td>20-30 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal bottle cap</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foamed plastic cups, plates</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposable diaper</td>
<td>75 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic bottle</td>
<td>100-400 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tin can</td>
<td>50-100 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft drink can</td>
<td>200-500 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monofilament fishing line</td>
<td>600 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass beverage bottle</td>
<td>1 million years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
<td>never</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Keep America Beautiful, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

### Litter Laws and Statistics

Louisiana spends more than $14 million a year to clean up our highways. In 2004 alone, state and sheriff cleanup crews picked up an estimated 450,000 bags (20,000 miles) of trash in our state.

According to Louisiana R.S.30:2531-2531.3, the penalties for littering in Louisiana range from $50 to $5,000. Those who litter can also expect between four and 10 hours of community service, suspension of their driver’s license for one year and even the possibility of jail time for up to 30 days.

- Litter contributes to flooding when it collects in canals preventing water from draining properly.
- The four most common litter items in Louisiana are cigarettes, fast-food packaging, candy/snack packaging and beverage containers.
- Litter is a health risk to people and pets as it attracts rodents, vermin and germs.

Source: Louisiana Department of Corrections and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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**KEEP WEST BATON ROUGE BEAUTIFUL** is the principle anti-litter organization of the West Baton Rouge area.

Keep Baton Rouge Beautiful serves the West Baton Rouge Area by promoting public interest in community improvement of the environment through litter and waste prevention. These goals are accomplished with numerous programs including the Great American Clean up, Adopt-A-Road Program, Curb-side Recycling, the Clean Business Awards and other community outreach programs. Development of partnerships with education, business, community and civic organizations is essential to improve the physical environment and quality of life for West Baton Rouge Parish.

For additional information on how an individual or organization can support these activities call (225) 490-8549 or visit [http://www.wbrcouncil.org/Departments/Keep-West-Baton-Rouge-Beautiful](http://www.wbrcouncil.org/Departments/Keep-West-Baton-Rouge-Beautiful).

Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful is the local affiliate of the non-profit public service organization Keep Louisiana Beautiful & Keep America Beautiful.

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**Sources:**
- [www.cleanair.org](http://www.cleanair.org)
- Keep America Beautiful
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.
“Going Green” means adopting a lifestyle that reduces consumption of Earth’s natural resources. It means concentrating on energy-efficient, non-polluting, healthy living. It means taking environmental stewardship into our own hands to secure WBR Parish as a sustainable community.

“Going Green” means working to conserve energy, improve air and water quality, reduce and recycle solid waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. “Going Green” means practicing conservation every day at home and at work. “Going Green” means buying locally. By doing so we preserve our beautiful planet, save valuable resources and reduce our bottom line.

* Energy Conservation

By using less energy we lower operating costs for energy derived from natural resources and reduce pollution.

Alternative Energy

Try a form of renewable energy instead of conventional sources. Renewable, earth-friendly, green energy power sources include solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, tidal and biomass. The more green power we use, the less fossil fuels we need to generate electricity. Buying green power from a utility is one of the easiest ways to use renewable energy without having to invest in equipment. Developing these types of alternative energy sources will keep millions of dollars in the United States and create more jobs.

Tankless Water Heaters

Tankless water heaters only heat water as needed without using a storage unit. They deliver a constant supply of hot water on demand and save energy. For more info: www.energysavers.gov/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm?mytopic=12820

Appliances

When it’s time to replace old appliances, buy energy efficient models. ENERGY STAR models are the most energy efficient, using 10% to 50% less energy and/or water than standard models.

Did You Know?

Refrigerators and washing machines use more energy than almost any other home appliance.

Lighting

Making changes to your lighting is one of the fastest ways to reduce your energy bill.

- Use compact fluorescent lights (CFLs): They use about 75% less energy, produce 75% less heat and last about 10 times longer than standard bulbs.
- Use Light Emitting Diodes (LED): They last up to 10 times longer than CFLs.
- Use dimmers and timers on lighting to reduce energy.
- Turn off lights when they are not in use.
- Use high efficiency outdoor lighting such as outdoor fluorescent, solar or motion sensor lights.
- Use ENERGY STAR labeled lighting fixtures.

Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Well-maintained heating and air conditioning systems help keep energy costs down.

- Raise the thermostat 2 degrees (around 76°F) during summer and drop it 2 degrees (around 60°F) in the winter to see dramatic results.
- Install energy management systems that monitor thermostats.
- Don’t forget to use ceiling fans.
- Weatherproof your home by sealing, caulking and insulating around all windows, doors, switch plates and attic.

What Does ‘Carbon Footprint’ Mean?

The total amount of greenhouse gases emitted directly and indirectly to support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of either carbon or carbon dioxide.

Direct greenhouse gas emissions can include tailpipe emissions of CO2 from motor vehicles, methane from landfills, and hydrofluorocarbons from leaking refrigeration or air conditioning equipment. Indirect greenhouse gas emissions arise from coal and other fossil fuel-based energy generated to power residential, commercial, and industrial activities. Indirect emissions also arise from fossil fuel combustion used in the manufacture, transport, storage, disposal, and recycling of commodities and manufactured products.

Source: www.sustainabilitydictionary.com/c/carbon_footprint.php

What Is Your Carbon Footprint?

You can calculate your carbon footprint online at www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx

Tips to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint!

- Wait until after dusk to refuel your car (the sun turns vapors into smog)
- Don’t top the tank off (this releases gas vapors into the air)
- Keep your vehicles tuned up and tires properly inflated
- Use eco-friendly products in and on your car
- Report vehicles releasing large amounts of exhaust to the LA Department of Environmental Quality, call (225) 219-3640
- Slow down
- Commute
- Use public transportation (fewer cars on the road mean fewer emissions)
- Bicycle as often as possible
- Carpool
- Walk

Louisiana Earth Day

Louisiana Earth Day, held every April in Baton Rouge, brings together environmentally focused groups, corporations and individuals in a common goal to preserve, protect and improve our environment through education and celebration. www.laearthday.org
**Did you know?**

If every American home replaced just one light with an ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent bulb (CFL), we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, save about $700 million in annual energy costs, and prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year, equivalent to the emissions of about 800,000 cars.

One (CFL) will save about $30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about 6 months. It uses 75 percent less energy and lasts about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

Source: www.energystar.gov

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**Weatherization**

Home weatherization can help save energy and money. Sealing and caulking windows, attic insulation (blown cellulose), attic door covers, and hot water heater blankets are all solutions to greening your home.

**Federal Tax Credits**

See www.energysavers.gov for a list of the federal tax credits for energy efficiency improvements.

**Solar Energy Incentives**

Louisiana State Solar Incentive – 50% Tax Credit

- Louisiana has the best solar rebate program in the Nation. Louisiana has a substantial 50% tax incentive for going solar—possibly the best tax credit in the nation. The state will pay 50% of the first $25,000 in the form of a refundable tax credit, which is great because if you don’t have tax liability they’ll send you a check as an overpayment. The state program has considerable funding that should keep running for the foreseeable future. www.cleanenergyauthority.com

Federal Solar Tax Credit – 30% Tax Credit

- There is a 30% Investment Tax Credit for solar which was beefed-up in 2009 and doesn’t have a cap. This is a tax credit (better than a deduction) equal to 30% of your out-of-pocket expense when going solar. www.energystar.gov

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**Hybrid Cars**

When it is time to buy a new car, consider hybrids, natural gas and electric cars. Hybrid cars may produce 90% less pollutants than comparable non-hybrid cars. By putting less harmful chemicals in the environment, the harmful effects of pollution can be halted or even reversed.

**Water Conservation**

Most of us take our clean, fresh water for granted. But water is a limited resource and should be conserved.

**Water Conservation Benefits:**

- Makes more drinking water available
- Reduces water bills
- Helps delay infrastructure expansion
- Ensures adequate water supply for years

**Turn on the tap instead of opening a water bottle**

- In a 2007 comparison of municipal drinking water quality by Men’s Health Magazine, Baton Rouge’s water quality was ranked as second best of 100 cities in the United States.
- Up to 40 percent of bottled water is filtered tap water.
- Each year, according to the Pacific Institute’s Peter Gleick, making the plastic water bottles used in the U.S. takes enough oil and energy to fuel a million cars. And that doesn’t even include the fuel required to ship, fly or truck water across continents and state lines.
- Three-fourths of the half-a-billion plastic water bottles sold in the U.S. every week go in landfills or to incinerators. It costs our cities more than $70 million to landfill water bottles each year, according to Corporate Accountability International.


**More Tips to Going Green**

- Lower water usage by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth. Do the same while you shave.
- Read more: www.thedailygreen.com/going-green/tips/tap-water-conservation-tip#ixzz0vYR2NpcQ
- Other water savers include low flow shower heads and water saving toilets. For information: http://planetgreen.discovery.com/feature/green-materials-guide/bathroom-design-water-conservation.html


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**Bring your own bag!**

Start a habit that will make you proud: bring reusable bags everytime you go to the store. It’s one simple way to go green in your daily life.

Why bringing your own bag makes a difference:

- Each Year the U.S. uses 30 billion plastic and 10 billion paper grocery bags. Requiring 14 million trees and 12 million barrels of oil.
- Only 1% of plastic bags are recycled annually.

**Need a reusable shopping bag?**

Contact Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful at 490-8549.

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**Did You Know?**

Using a clothesline conserves energy and the environment, it saves as much at $25 a month in your electricity bill and ensures that your clothes will last longer. www.laundrylist.org
Homeowners spend hundreds of hours a year mowing, clipping, raking and landscaping to keep their property attractive. Instead of placing leaves and grass clippings at the curb, reduce waste by composting, mulching and grasscycling. You will have a more beautiful yard, lower water and fertilizer bills and save valuable resources.

**COMPOSTING** is nature’s way of recycling. In a natural ecosystem as leaves, branches and plants fall to the ground, soil microorganisms decompose them into dark, nutrient-rich humus. You can duplicate this process in your backyard and turn your unwanted leaves, twigs, grass clippings and vegetable food scraps into a soil enhancer, mulch or potting soil.

Composting can be done in a pile or in a compost bin. You can build a compost bin, buy a ready-made one or purchase one at the City-Parish annual backyard compost bin sale. Check [www.brgov.com/recycle](http://www.brgov.com/recycle) for dates and locations of sales and designs for backyard compost bins.

**MULCHING** is another simple way to recycle yard waste and improve your soil. Simply place grass, chopped leaves and woody materials around trees and plants. The mulch serves as a protective layer, conserves water and provides nutrients to the soil.

**GRASSCYCLING** is the practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. The clippings quickly decompose, returning nutrients to the soil.

For additional information about composting, mulching, grasscycling and greening your landscape visit these web sites:

- [www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/greenscapes/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/greenscapes/index.htm)
- [http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostbrochure.pdf](http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostbrochure.pdf)

The Louisiana Master Gardener™ program is a service and educational activity offered by the LSU AgCenter. The program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help meet the educational needs of home gardeners while providing an enjoyable and worthwhile service experience for volunteers. [www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/lawn_garden/master_gardener/)

Food scraps can be saved for composting using an air-tight container. Place these scraps in your compost bin, worm farm, or bury them in the ground. Compost is rich in nutrients and helps add to the quality of the soil.

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**MULCHING BASICS**

Mulching is a simple easy way to recycle yard and other organic materials and improve your soil. These materials spread on top of the ground benefit soil and plant health, and make landscape maintenance easier. Wood chips, leaves, grass clippings, wood shaving and compost all make good mulches.

**MULCHING BENEFITS**

- Prevents soil compaction and erosion
- Suppresses weeds
- Captures and retains soil moisture
- Protects plant roots and crowns from extreme heat and cold
- Protects and stimulates microbial activity in the soil
- Adds nutrients to the soil as they break down

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**Benefits of Composting**

- Reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers
- Promote higher yields of agricultural crops
- Facilitate reforestation, wetlands restoration, and habitat revitalization efforts by amending contaminated, compacted, and marginal soils
- Cost-effectively remediate soils contaminated by hazardous waste
- Remove solids, oil, grease, and heavy metals from stormwater runoff
- Avoids Methane and leachate formulation in landfills
- Capture and destroy 99.6 percent of industrial volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) in contaminated air
- Reduces the need for water, fertilizers, and pesticides
- Serves as a marketable commodity and is a low-cost alternative to standard landfill cover and artificial soil amendments
- Extends municipal landfill life by diverting organic materials from landfills
**Sustainable Landscaping**

Landscaping is a natural and beautiful way to keep your home cool in the summer and reduce your energy and water bills. Well-placed trees and shrubs act as wind breaks as well as providing effective shade.

Sustainable landscapes help conserve water, reduce the use of chemicals, create healthier soil and plants and increase biodiversity in landscape areas. A local example at the LAHouse Home and Garden Resource Center was built to examine the issue of sustainability. The grounds are landscaped with drought-tolerant, native plants, rainwater is harvested for outdoor use, and integrated pest management was used to minimize the need for chemical controls.

Storm water run-off was minimized by retaining water on site. Go to [www.lsuagcenter.com/lahouse](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/lahouse) for a virtual tour.

Use native plant landscaping to reduce pollution and erosion, to provide habitat and to replace turf. These plants require less water and are more tolerant to our climate. Consider using drip irrigation for vegetable and flower beds.

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**Sustainable Landscaping Principles and Practices**

1. Permeable paving on driveway and walkway to front door
2. Water from roof channeled to cistern
3. Water for wildlife habitat
4. Pavers with spaces and low water use plants between
5. Front lawn replaced by diverse planting with many Louisiana native groundcovers, shrubs and trees, but no invasive species
6. All plants given the space to grow to their natural size
7. Plants selected to match the microclimates
8. Irrigation controller waters hydrozones according to plant needs, soil moisture and weather
9. Deciduous trees placed to the west and southwest of the house and patio for summer cooling
10. Repository for leaves to collect under trees as mulch
11. Mulched paths keep soil covered
12. Drip irrigation for vegetable beds, shrubs and trees
13. Raised beds constructed from plastic or composite lumber
14. Compost bin recycles plant and kitchen debris
15. Evergreen trees and hedges block north winter winds
16. Trees not topped but pruned properly to prevent wind damage
17. Small lawn in back yard where family will use it

Did You Know?

**Louisiana Native Plants**

* add beauty to the landscape and preserve our natural heritage
* provide food and habitat for native wildlife
* serve as an important genetic resource for future food crops or other plant-derived products
* help slow down the spread of fire by staying greener longer
* decrease the amount of water needed for landscape maintenance
* require very little long-term maintenance if they are properly planted and established
* produce long root systems to hold soil in place
* protect water quality by controlling soil erosion and moderating floods and droughts

Source: [www.nps.gov/plants/restore/pubs/intronatplant/whyusenatives.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/restore/pubs/intronatplant/whyusenatives.htm)

Other helpful web sites:

- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services at [http://plants.usda.gov/](http://plants.usda.gov/)
- Louisiana Native Plant Society at [www.lnps.org](http://www.lnps.org)
- [www.plantnative.org](http://www.plantnative.org)

For additional information about sustainable landscaping from the American Society of Landscape Architects, visit [www.asla.org/homeandgardentips.aspx](http://www.asla.org/homeandgardentips.aspx)
**Green Building**

Throughout the country more and more businesses and home owners are planning green or sustainable buildings. Government incentive programs and a wide variety of eco-friendly materials are fueling a revolution in green building.

**DEFINITION OF GREEN BUILDING:**
Green building is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building’s life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovating and deconstruction.

Green building expands and complements the classical building design concerns of economy, utility, durability and comfort. Green buildings are designed and built to reduce the overall impact on human health and the natural environment by efficiently using energy, water and other natural resources.

By adopting green or sustainable building practices we can maximize both environmental and economic performance. Potential benefits of green building include:

**Environmental benefits**
- Enhance and protect biodiversity and ecosystems
- Improve air and water quality
- Reduce waste streams
- Conserve and restore natural resources

**Economic benefits**
- Reduce operating costs
- Create, expand and shape markets for green products and services
- Improve occupant productivity
- Optimize life-cycle economic performance

**Social benefits**
- Enhance occupant comfort and health
- Heighten aesthetic qualities
- Minimize strain on local infrastructure
- Improve overall quality of life

The LAHouse

LAHouse on the LSU campus is a research-based house full of solution and educational outreach programs to help you shape the future with homes that offer: more comfort, durability, value, convenience, environmental quality, safety and better health with less energy, water, pollution, waste, damage and loss.

[www.lsuagcenter.com/lahouse](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/lahouse)

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**LEED Certified explained:**
LEED is the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. LEED encourages builders and developers to implement green and/or sustainable building practices. LEED is a third party certification and is the nationally accepted benchmark of design, construction and operation of buildings. LEED provides the builders, as well as the owners and tenants of LEED certified properties, with all of the information they need to maximize the benefits of their building.

LEED is measured in five areas:
1. Energy efficiency
2. Water savings
3. Materials selection
4. Indoor environmental quality
5. Sustainable site development

Source: [www.wellsphere.com](http://www.wellsphere.com)

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**Tips on How to Build Green**
- Use products made with salvaged, recycled, or agricultural waste content
- Use products that conserve natural resources
- Use products that avoid toxic or other emissions
- Use products that save energy or water
- Use products that contribute to a safe, healthy built environment
- Use recycled content building materials such as plastic lumber for decking, fencing and exterior molding
- Use green label low VOC carpets, natural fiber carpet or carpet with recycled content
- Use wood, bamboo and cork flooring made from renewable resource and which are long lasting
- Use natural linoleum made from natural linseed oil, rosins and wood flour with a jute backing
- Use recycled content ceramic tiles which contain recycled glass or other materials
- Use low VOC paints and wood finishes

For more information visit [www.greenhomeguide.org](http://www.greenhomeguide.org) and see chart on page 26 for local green building vendors.

Source: [www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm?fileName=090101a.xml](http://www.buildinggreen.com/auth/article.cfm?fileName=090101a.xml)
A Green Living Guide for West Baton Rouge Parish