



Around Your Home

Proper disposal of leaf and branch waste is important. Consult the Waste Collection guide to learn more about the schedule, what's collected and how. ¹

Where possible, store vegetative debris in your yard. With a small yard, place your material at the curb soon before pickup, and for all yards, mulch leaves back into the grass or compost them on site.

Use the municipal see-click-fix system to help the town manage issues such as leaf and brush piles blocking streets, bike paths, and storm drains, improper use of gas-powered leaf blowers, and other infrastructure concerns. ²

Increased frequency and intensity of rainstorms makes stormwater management important for homeowners. Green infrastructure such as rain gardens can be used to control water quantity and manage stormwater runoff. Swales and berms help direct water to desired areas.

You could reduce grass lawn, use deep rooted native grass, and keep/plant trees to increase stormwater absorption. Avoid adding impervious surfaces which increase runoff and flooding.

Lower Your Energy Bills

If you can, design your house so that most windows face south, minimize glass on west, east, and especially north elevations.

Use optimum insulation with appropriate R values. Use insulated glass windows, and casement, or awning windows rather than double-hung, as they can be closed more securely, opened if raining, and can be oriented for prevailing breezes.

The edges of windows, doors, and openings should be sealed to prevent air leakage. Consider taking advantage of the energy audits available from PSE&G, our local power company.

Heat pumps are extremely efficient, and ERV (Energy Recovery Ventilation) systems can provide fresh air without much additional energy consumption. ERV systems also provide a level of safety by limiting air intake during a fire.

Once you've implemented the steps above, consider installing solar panels, or enroll in a community solar program.

Inside Your Home

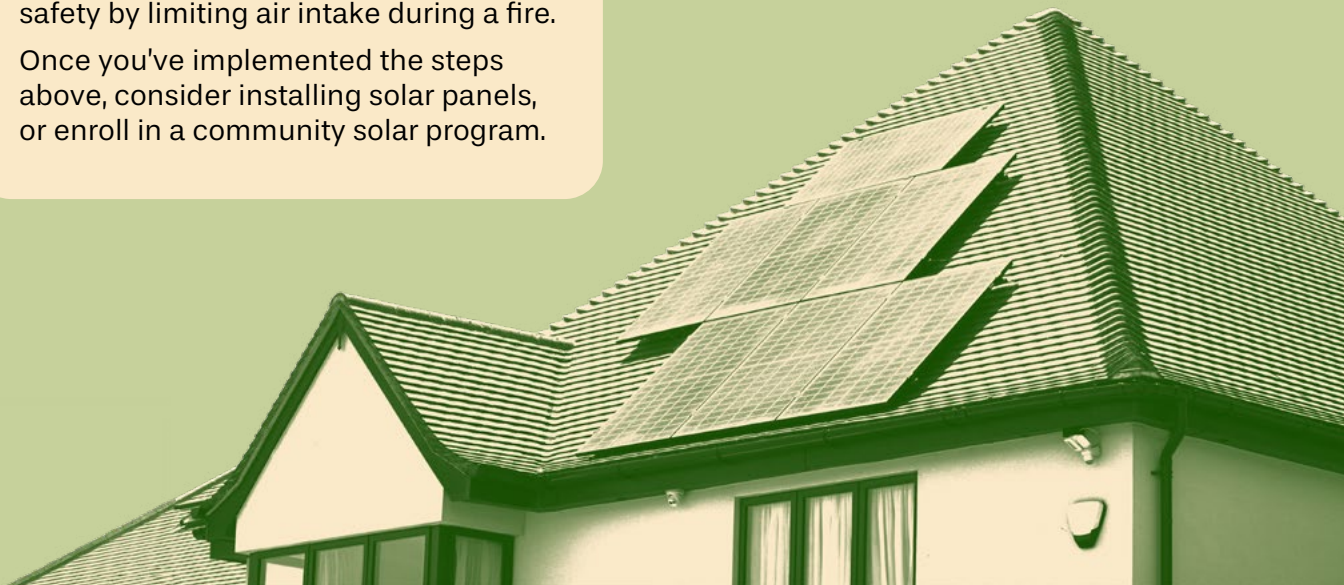
Daylight, ventilation and air filtration, safe building materials, and healthful color palettes can improve your health.

The Red List ³ is a tool to identify materials, chemicals, and elements that have been and are being used in building products, which pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

In Your Neighborhood

Compact Development is a design concept that:

- Promotes relatively high residential development with mixed land uses
- Is based on an efficient public transport system
- Has an urban layout that encourages active transportation, low energy consumption, and reduced pollution
- Walking/biking pathways can provide additional health and safety results



Green Guidelines

When choosing green design options, it is important to understand and value the entire life cycle of our built environment. The purpose of this document is to provide guiding principles, information and key actions for individuals interested in contributing to a more sustainable community. This information should be useful for anyone planning to build or renovate a home as well as for those who require more information to advocate for a more sustainable community.

Consideration should include the production, application, implementation, waste/recycling, impact for all design and building material choices within a project. These considerations should strive for zero waste and net-zero energy. Sustainable design offers a pathway to minimize negative impacts while enhancing human health and well-being.



Next Steps

- Visit the municipal website to view a detailed and more comprehensive version of the information in this flier: The Green Development Checklist ⁴
- Share information / distribute information through public seminars/ workshops, news stories in local press publications, and social media.
- Speak out / volunteer to attend, speak at local organizations on panels or individually at public venues and municipal meetings.
- Learn more / share with others by talking, writing and doing.
- Check out the videos of houses on past Green House Tours, sharing many sustainable building ideas, found on the Princeton Environmental Commission's website. ⁵

Resources

- ¹ <https://www.princetonnj.gov/450/Leaf-Branch-and-Log-Collection>
- ² https://seeclickfix.com/princeton_nj
- ³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_List_building_materials
- ⁴ <https://www.princetonnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19533/In-Depth-Development-Review-Guidance---Green-Development-Checklist-PDF>
- ⁵ <https://www.princetonnj.gov/1462/Green-House-Tours-Videos>

Making A Difference

Green Guidelines For Homeowners

View online at:



Written by members of the Princeton Environmental Commission.