



Why Build Green? Our Habitat-NYC Friends Share Their Thoughts

The budding Atlantic Avenue complex in Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Brooklyn, represents Habitat-NYC's commitment to build green. Green homes are at the forefront of measures we can take to protect the environment, promote health, reduce energy costs and increase sustainability by conserving natural resources.

In a recent survey, friends of Habitat-NYC were invited to choose the most important of these reasons to build green.

Overwhelmingly, 64 percent feel that green homes create healthy homes for families and children. Of the remaining responses, 25 percent consider helping low-income families save money on energy most important, and 32 percent say helping improve the environment is the most important reason to build green Habitat-NYC homes.

Yes, this does add up to more than 100 percent! That's because a number of respondents voted for more than one choice.

Here is what some of our friends had to say:

- "All of these reasons are extremely important, but when focusing on low-income housing for those that need a home, saving money through eco-friendly practices is probably the most important to the homeowner."
- "It's hard to say which reason is most important, but I selected help improve the environment as that it is something that affects ALL of us!"
- "Healthy people can be happier, function better, and be in the best position to optimize their lives and reach their goals for themselves and their community."
- "I think green-building should be the norm for future buildings around the world and United States."
- "We have to create healthy homes for families and children so that they can live happier and healthier lives."
- I think it is important to follow European standards rather than U.S. ones as they are quite a bit stricter. One of the big issues I would imagine is the extent of formaldehyde used in U.S. construction materials. These leak out over a number of years. I would love to get involved with green building with Habitat, but when I've looked it has been very hard to find information.

- It's a healthier environment building green, and also it is cost saving to consumers.
- Awareness is everything, especially for families coming into homeownership for the first time.
- Both to save money, energy, but definitely for health reasons! Over the long term, health and health costs impact a family.