



# Green Buildings Are...

Healthy

Durable

Comfortable

Friendly to the Environment

From the floor beneath your feet to the pipes that carry water to the kitchen sink, buildings are made up of tons of steel, wood, plastic, concrete and glass. Buildings also use fuels like oil and natural gas to provide warmth and to power lights, appliances, computers and air conditioners. **Where do all these materials and fuels come from? What will happen to the building when it is old and can no longer be used?**

These are some of the questions that the City of Boston and the Mass Audubon asked when they got together to build the George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center. They wanted a building that would use as little energy as possible. They also wanted to use materials that come from natural sources like wood and stone, and that do not contain toxic chemicals that can pollute the air and water.

By using energy wisely and choosing only the most environmentally-friendly materials, this building helps preserve and protect the land and animals that make the sanctuary such a special place.

### Activity...

1. Draw a line to match each picture with the correct description.
2. On the line below each description, tell us where you can find that green feature in the building.

Solar hot water panels use the sun's energy to heat water for handwashing and dish washing.



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Light shelves bounce natural light into the middle of the building.



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Pipes for the geothermal system carry water that is heated and cooled by the constant temperature below ground. This water will be used to heat and cool the building.



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Photovoltaic shingles use the sun's energy to make electricity.



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Stones were taken from another local building when it was destroyed.

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This wood is from sustainably-harvested forests where only some trees are cut each year.

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Beams are made from waste wood particles.

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Linoleum flooring is made from natural materials and is recyclable.

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Return these answered questions to the Boston Nature Center and receive a prize!




## How Green Are the Buildings in Your Life?

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At home and at school, take a look around and think about what it takes to *make* the buildings you are in everyday.




What are some of the biggest energy users in your home, school, or community center (lights, air conditioners, computers, etc.)?



What types of materials are used most in your home, school, or community center (i.e. wood, brick, concrete)? Where did these materials come from?



What type of fuel (oil, natural gas, coal) is used to heat your home, school, or community center?



What can you do to use less energy, to recycle materials, and to make your home or school, community center "green?"

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## The George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center

at Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center



### What Makes it **Green!**



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