

TERM	DEFINITION	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AFUE	A central furnace or boiler's efficiency is measured by annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE).	U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Savers website
Automated Lighting Controls	Automatic controls for lighting range from a simple outdoor light fixture with a built-in photosensor to whole-house programmable controls that can activate lights for various scenarios (e.g., time of day, vacations, entertaining) from a central command center.	National Association of Homebuilders Research Center website
Ceiling Fans	Fans, set to push warm air into living spaces, can reduce winter heating bills, and cut cooling costs when they are used in lieu of air conditioners.	Green Resource Council of the National Association of REALTORS®: Green Building Glossary
Earthen Built / Rammed Earth	A technique used in the building of walls using the raw materials of earth, chalk, lime and gravel.	North American Rammed Earth Builders Association
ENERGY STAR® / Low E Windows	In general, Colorado requires a U-factor of 0.35 or less to meet ENERGY STAR guidelines.	ENERGY STAR® qualified windows, doors, and skylights
ENERGY STAR® Rated Roof	ENERGY STAR qualified roof products reflect more of the sun's rays.	ENERGY STAR® roof products
ENERGY STAR® Refrigerator,	ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators are 20% more energy efficient than the minimum federal standard.	ENERGY STAR® qualified refrigerators
Dishwasher,	ENERGY STAR® qualified dishwasher models are, on average, 10% more energy efficient than non-qualified models.	ENERGY STAR® qualified dishwasher
Clothes Washer	ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washers use about 30% less energy and use over 50% less water than regular washers.	ENERGY STAR® qualified clothes washers
Evaporative Cooling	Also know as swamp cooler. A simple cooling system that operates by moving air across or through a wet pad.	Green Resource Council of the National Association of REALTORS®: Green Building Glossary

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FSC Certified Cabinets	Independent certification and labeling of forest products, such as lumber used for cabinets, administered by the Forest Stewardship Council.	Forest Stewardship Council website
FSC Certified Lumber	Independent certification and labeling of forest products, such as lumber used for framing, administered by the Forest Stewardship Council.	Forest Stewardship Council website
Green Guard Certified Carpet / Flooring	Third-party certification program for carpet and flooring.	GREENGUARD Environmental Institute website
Grey water System	Untreated wastewater resulting from lavatory wash basins, laundry and bathing. Wastewater from kitchen sinks is often excluded because of the high food and grease content.	Alliance for Water Efficiency website
Ground Source Heat Pump (Geothermal heat pumps or geothermal heat exchange)	Ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are electrically powered systems that tap the stored energy of the earth. These systems use the earth's relatively constant temperature to provide heating, cooling, and hot water.	Colorado GEO Energy Heat Pump Association
High Efficiency Furnace / Boiler	The Federal Trade Commission requires new furnaces or boilers to display their AFUE so consumers can compare heating efficiencies of various models. AFUE is a measure of how efficient the appliance is in the energy in its fuel over the course of a typical year.	View the new EnergyGuide label Federal Trade Commission website
High Efficiency Lighting (CFLs, LED)	New lighting technologies use less energy, last longer, and give off the same amount of light as old incandescent technologies.	Colorado Governor's Energy Office: Recharge Colorado website
	Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) use about a quarter of the energy while giving off the same amount of light and lasting up to 10 times longer.	
	Light-emitting Diodes (LEDs) create light without releasing heat, last longer than CFLs and do not contain mercury.	

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High Efficiency Water Heater	High efficiency water heaters use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard models. Models with an ENERGY STAR rating are considered highly efficient.	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: ENERGY STAR® High Efficiency Water Heaters pdf
High SEER Air Conditioning	Air conditioners manufactured after January 26, 2006 must achieve a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 13 or higher.	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: ENERGY STAR® air conditioner
Home Orientation (South Facing Overhangs)	<p>The home is located on the property to maximize solar gain in winter, and provide shade in summer.</p> <p>In general, a south-facing orientation, within 30° east or west of true south, will provide around 90% of the maximum static solar collection potential.</p>	U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Savers website
Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®	Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is a national program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It offers a comprehensive, “whole-house” approach to improving energy efficiency and comfort of existing homes.	Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® website
Hot Water Recirculation Pump / Structured Plumbing	Hot water recirculation systems use a pump to move hot water through the plumbing system from the water heater to near the fixtures. Structured Plumbing is a method of designing the hot water plumbing layout to minimize hot water delivery times.	National Association of Homebuilders Research Center website
ICF	Rigid plastic foam forms that hold concrete in place during curing and remain in place afterwards to serve as thermal insulation for concrete walls. The foam sections are lightweight and result in energy efficient, durable construction.	Insulating Concrete Form Association website
Indoor airPLUS by ENERGY STAR®	A variety of construction practices and technologies to decrease the risk of poor indoor air quality. The Environmental Protection Agency administers a builder program called Indoor airPLUS.	US Environmental Protection Agency: Indoor airPLUS website

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Improved Insulation	Building codes typically require a minimum insulation level for each component of the building envelope. Improved Insulation refers to increasing the insulation levels beyond the minimum code requirements.	US Environmental Protection Agency: Increased Insulation pdf
Insulation Air Sealing Upgrades	For existing homes, Insulation and Air Sealing upgrades are typically implemented in conjunction with an energy audit. These steps help seal a home from drafts and leakage, and increase the insulation levels of the home.	U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Savers website
Low Flow Fixtures / Shower Heads	<p>A faucet with aerator installed to reduce the flow of water but not reduce water pressure.</p> <p>Low-flow shower heads use about 2½ gallons of water per minute compared to between four and five gallons per minute used by conventional heads.</p>	US Environmental Protection Agency: WaterSense website
Low Flow Toilets	<p>A toilet that uses less water per flush when compared to the current federal requirements. Such toilets often have the EPA's WaterSense label.</p> <p>In general, low-flow toilets use a maximum of 1.28 gallons of water per flush.</p>	US Environmental Protection Agency: WaterSense website
Low-water Sod	Landscaping that has significantly lower watering requirements than conventional turf. Most of these types come with certificates of installation in Colorado.	US Environmental Protection Agency: WaterSense website
No Formaldehyde Certified Cabinetry	The Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) created the Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) to help cabinet manufacturers demonstrate their commitment to environmental sustainability and help consumers easily identify environmentally-friendly products.	Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association website
No or Low VOC Paint	Paints that release no, or minimal Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) pollutants, and are virtually odor free.	National Association of Homebuilders Research Center website

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Orientation / Passive Solar Design	Solar geometry, window technology and local climate are used to direct building design. Helps reduce or even eliminate the need for mechanical cooling and heating and daytime artificial lighting.	Colorado Governor's Energy Office Recharge Colorado Website
Programmable Thermostat	A thermostat that can be programmed to increase and decrease a home's temperature setting automatically.	US Environmental Protection Agency website
Radon Mitigation System	A system that detects radon, a naturally occurring gas, colorless and odorless, that causes adverse health effects. Radon gas often enters a structure by seeping through cellar walls and floors.	US Environmental Protection Agency
Reclaimed Flooring	Material that is recovered for reuse or another purpose, such as wood barn siding that becomes flooring.	U.S. Green Building Council's Green Home Guide website
Recycled Content	Recycled-content products are made from materials that would otherwise have been discarded. These products are made totally or partially from material contained in recycled products, like aluminum soda cans or newspaper.	Green Resource Council of the National Association of REALTORS®: Green Building Glossary
Regionally Harvested	Harvested within 500 miles of home.	LEEDuser website
SEER Rating	The rating and performance standard developed by the U.S. government and equipment manufacturer's to produce an energy consumption rating that is easy to understand by consumers. The lower the SEER rating, the more energy required to produce the desired effect.	U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Savers website
SIPS	Panels made from a thick layer of foam sandwiched between two layers of Oriented Strand Board (OSB), plywood or fiber-cement. They are an alternative to the foam core and are available with a core of agriculture fibers (such as wheat straw) that provides similar thermal and structural performance.	Structural Insulated Panel Association website

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Straw Bale	A construction method that uses waste straw left over from crops, such as wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice and flax, after all the food has been extracted. Straw is gathered, baled, compressed and tied together. Bales are placed over a "stem wall" to protect the straw from the ground soil and the straw bales are stuccoed and plastered over for finishing.	Colorado Straw Bale Association website
Sustainable Flooring	Sustainable flooring is produced from sustainable materials (and by a sustainable process) that reduces demands on ecosystems during its life-cycle. This includes harvest, production, use and disposal.	Flooring Materials Glossary or Green Building Advisor
Tankless / On Demand Water Heater	A system that delivers hot water at a preset temperature when needed, but without requiring the storage of water. The approach reduces or eliminates energy standby losses. Tankless water heaters can be used for supplementary heat, such as a booster to a solar hot water system, or to meet all hot water needs. Tankless water heaters have an electric, gas, or propane heating device that is activated by the flow of water.	U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Savers website or Green Resource Council of the National Association of REALTORS®: Green Building Glossary
Whole House Fan	A whole-house fan is a type of fan installed in a building's ceiling, designed to pull hot air out of the building.	U.S. Department of Energy: Energy Savers website
Xeriscaping	A method of landscaping that promotes water conservation.	Colorado WaterWise website

ENERGY and GREEN FEATURES ADDENDUM GLOSSARY OF TERMS (updated 10/19/2010)

Additional
Resources: <http://www.greenprintdenver.org/>
<http://www.greenthemls.org/>
<http://www.energystar.gov/>
<http://www.nahbgreen.org/>
<http://greenhomeguide.com/>
<http://www.ecobroker.com/>
<http://www.greenresourcecouncil.org/>
<http://www.energy.gov/>
<http://www.passivehouse.us/passiveHouse/PHIUSHome.html>
<http://www.builtgreen.org/>
<http://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/>
<http://www.coloradoenergystarhomes.com/>
<http://www.usgbccolorado.org/>
<http://www.denverwater.org/>
<http://www.rechargecolorado.com/>
<http://www.regreenprogram.org/>
<http://www.dsireusa.org/>