

BUILDING GREEN

Do you ever think about how much energy buildings and businesses **consume** or use? They need energy for lights, computers, phones, elevators, heating, air conditioning, and more.

Some buildings and homes are going green. They are being built to be more **efficient** so they use less energy and water. They can also be **sustainable**, which means to last a long time. These changes can help save energy and money, and help the environment. Check out the examples below.

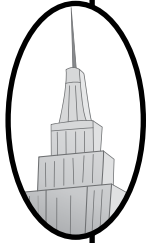
Italy's Vertical Forest

Two new buildings in Milan, Italy, will have their own forests surrounding each floor. More than 900 trees and shrubs will provide shade that can help cool the buildings in the summer. When the trees lose their leaves in the fall, sunlight can help heat the building.



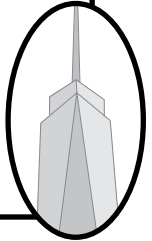
The Empire State Building

This landmark is undergoing changes to make it more energy efficient. The building's 6,500 windows were recently taken out, updated with special treatments, and replaced. This helps to cool and heat the building more efficiently.



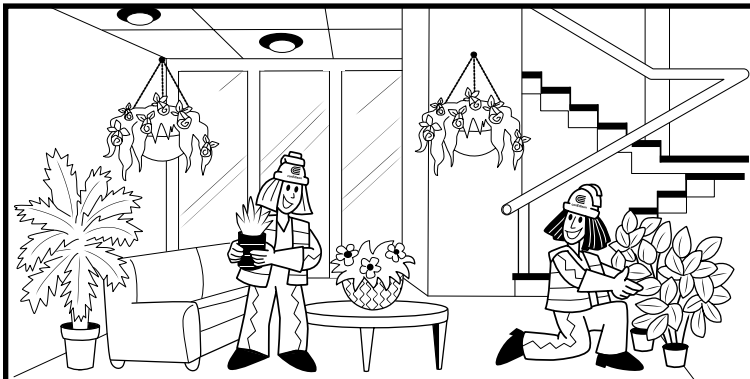
One World Trade Center

This new building is showing its green too. For example, rainwater is harvested or collected to help with cooling the building and watering the surrounding greenery.



It's Your Turn!

The ideas above are big ways of going green. But everyone can save energy or use it more efficiently. What are some things your family can do? Make a list on the back of this page.



WORDS TO KNOW

- **consume** (verb)—use
- **efficient** (adjective)—get results without waste
- **sustainable** (adjective)—able to last a long time