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## Green lifestyles gain momentum

Apr 25, 2011, 05:26PM IST

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Mumbai There was a time, not so long ago, when green construction was limited to commercial buildings, since it was considered quite expensive. Now, as home buyers increasingly begin to recognise the benefits of sustainability, residential buildings are also beginning to go green. [Join us on Twitter](#) | [Join us on LinkedIn](#) | [Join us on Facebook](#) Green building construction is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally sensible and resourced. The process starts from using sustainable materials for construction, environment friendly resources and

providing green amenities to ensure a responsible eco-friendly approach. Architect Vasudevan R Kadalayil, Cofounder, Architect and Sustainability Expert, Ecumene Habitat Solutions Pvt Ltd says, "The building must be designed in response and sympathy to the climate of its location. If designed correctly, the building would use the right

amount of energy for its operations. This would mean a building that uses only the required amount of electricity and water without being extravagant. Sustainable materials are those that are locally available and use the least amount of energy for its manufacture and transport to the building site. A sustainable material is also preferably sourced in a manner that inflicts less environmental and social damage." Developers have noted the value of using sustainable resources for construction and are providing green amenities to customers. Amit Pal, GM-Quality Assurance and Innovation, Mahindra Lifespaces Developers Limited says, "Green buildings have taken a leap over the last two years in India and developers are also constructing green residential buildings, which were earlier restricted to just commercial. The costing of residential buildings is not more than one to two percent of the regular conventional buildings." There are umpteen ways of building green practices within a project. Pal shares, "We use low thermal conductivity flyash bricks to make the building envelope, which is less thermal conductive than conventional building material and does not allow much heat inside the room, making the room cooler. We use energy efficient low e-glasses in the fenestration system, allowing sufficient amount of daylight inside but reflecting the heat that reduces the energy consumption from airconditioning requirement. CFL, LED, T5 lamps are used for external and common areas. Efficient water fixtures to reduce the excess water consumption with STP plants for water treatment. The low VOC paints, adhesives for all indoor application to provide a better indoor air quality to our customers are some other features." The Group is also providing a green book to all their customers and visitors at their project sites to make them aware of their green initiatives and also a 'green home user guideline', for the customers to get an idea about the maintenance of a green building. The Lodha Group is maximising usage of eco-friendly aspects to gain efficiency and economy in their attempt to give a better product to customers. Tikam Jain, Vice-President Planning, Lodha Group says, "A green building means environment friendly houses with better ventilation, affording natural lighting, economical use of energy (power) and water, besides price economy, since many building materials that are used for the construction are locally sourced. The buyer must therefore make himself aware of the various features of water conservation and energy savings incorporated in the house such as recycling of waste water for external use, solar heating/lighting, windows/ glazing, lighting sensors, CFL lamps etc, as also the choice of materials used in the construction which are energy efficient." Soham World provides green amenities like sewage treatment plants, solar usage and healthy environment through landscape gardens, terrace gardens and sky gardens and open spaces among others in their project Tropical Lagoon. Manoj Asrani, Marketing Manager, Soham World says, "Going green is a futuristic approach by the developer. There should be a proper open area for maximum sunlight and use of the shadow concept, which will provide ample daylight and diffuse direct heat. We use sustainable materials during construction through value engineering." At a recent Green Homes conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), Dr Prem C Jain, Chairman, Indian Green Building Council said, "The differential price for green homes is coming down and with greater implementation across the country it will cost the same as a normal home." The benefits of going green are enormous. Ramesh Iyengar, Convenor and Educator, Green Tree Foundation says, "The amount of energy used in a building is phenomenal. Constructing the building on green principles can help in reduction of greenhouse emissions and ensure a better future." Also, it brings down the cost overruns in the long run. No wonder, the movement on going green is gaining wide momentum!

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