Green buildings are businesses, residential spaces, or community spaces that incorporate sustainable practices in their design and operation. Green buildings incorporate the Triple Bottom Line, addressing environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainability. With $\frac{1}{3}$ of emissions contributing to climate change coming from buildings, green buildings are a vital step in creating a community that supports a clean environment!

**What is a green building?**

**Planning + Building**
- The most sustainable building is one that already exists
- Access to public transit
  - Biking + walking accessibility
  - Raze or Retrofit?

**Design**
- Big, open windows
- Lots of greenery
- Green Facades
- Native plants
- Locally bought decorations

**Energy**
- Maximize natural light
- Energy-saving systems, appliances, and technologies
  - Good insulation
- Solar energy: Thermal/PV Panels
- Electric car charging stations

**Water**
- Rainwater management
- Rain barrels
- Water-saving devices
- Grey water systems
What are the benefits of building green?

**Cost**

- Save money on energy budgets!
- Green buildings have a higher market value!
- Potential Tax Incentives
- The Chicago Department of Buildings offers three funding programs for projects that include green elements, the Green Permit Benefit Tier Program, the Green Permit Program, and the Solar Express Program.
- EPA Green Building Funding Opportunities Page

**Community**

In addition to supporting an environmentally sustainable society, green buildings hone in on designing, developing, building, renovating, and operating a building that is the best fit for its community. Green buildings support a local economy, the native plant species of an area, includes affordable housing, and reduces emissions and waste. Green buildings create vibrant communities!

A green facade is a design element of many green buildings, and is a beautiful addition to any neighborhood! Create a green facade by growing climbing plants up and across the facade of the building, either from plants grown in garden beds at its base, or by container plantings installed at different levels across the building!

**What resources are available?**

1. *Eco Andersonville Green Building Incentive Program*
2. *Illinois Green Alliance*
3. *LEED*
4. *US Green Building Council*
5. *Chicago Green Homes Program*

**What certifications are available to me?**

1. *Living Building Challenge*
2. *Passive House (PHIUS+)*
3. *Enterprise Green Communities*
4. *ENERGY STAR for Buildings*
5. *BIT Building*
6. *Zero Energy Certification*
7. *BREEAM*
8. *Green Globes*

There are many green buildings in Edgewater already! Pictured is the Institute of Environmental Sustainability at Loyola University Chicago- a LEED certified facility.

Check out Edgewater homes that have installed solar panels through our [solar map](#).