



Protecting Our Environment

Green Building

(NAPSA)—The term “green building” is one of the hottest phrases today, and it appears that it is here to stay. But just what is green building and how does it affect you?

Green building is construction that is intended to provide environmental, health and economic benefits. More specifically, green building construction unites a variety of practices and techniques that include an energy-efficient design, the use of recycled and sustainable building materials and the protection and preservation of a construction site’s existing natural resources. All these elements are essential when looking at the building’s entire life cycle, from design to operation and eventually decommission.

Owners and developers are utilizing green building concepts to help reduce their operating and maintenance costs, minimize their environmental footprint and improve the health of their buildings’ occupants. Additionally, a growing number of state and local governments are requiring the use of green building techniques in new construction and rehabilitation building projects.

Members of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) long ago recognized the importance and benefits of green building. Back in the 1980s, one of ABC’s member companies, Sigal Construction Corporation, was a green building pioneer and a founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Today, the group remains on the forefront of the green building movement, with its Green Building Advisory Group consisting of a broad cross section of ABC mem-



Builders are taking steps to minimize their environmental footprint and improve your health.

ber contractors that examine the latest advances in green construction technologies, applications and policies on behalf of ABC’s nearly 25,000 members.

“Although most green building planning and decisions are made by developers, owners and architects, ABC contractors are increasingly being called on to provide recommendations and practices on what green building materials, products and designs might be best for a particular project,” said Kirk Pickerel, ABC president and CEO.

Members of the association continue to lead the commercial and industrial construction industry by utilizing green building construction methods and practices. ABC members understand that more thoughtful and environmentally responsible construction is an important step in ensuring that they leave a softer footprint on the landscape for future generations.

To learn more about green building in the commercial and industrial construction industry, visit the ABC Web site at www.abc.org/greenbuilding.