

What is green?

At AENA we define green products as those that are socially and environmentally responsible. But what makes a product socially and environmentally responsible is not always as simple it may appear. Many individuals would agree that a new home designed and built with the latest products to reduce energy consumption would classify the house as being green. However, only looking at energy expenditures in a home overlooks the material and labor used to produce the structure itself. A house may utilize many of the latest technologies but if it contains some unsustainable or unhealthy materials then the sustainability of the entire house is called into question. If the house was constructed with workers that were not properly trained or without experience in sustainable technology, defects may surface and cause problems that would result in extensive energy and material waste to repair. Our monthly updates are designed to show new ideas, services, or projects that AENA is currently producing. What we often fail to mention is that our employees are highly trained and take pride in completing our work quickly and correctly to achieve the often complicated goals needed to make a structure truly sustainable. AENA combines green design with the necessary workmanship to deliver a product that uses material and energy efficiently. We believe that building green involves more than utilizing the newest popular green products; it is building well designed, efficient structures, whether homes, offices, or complete developments, that will last as long as possible.

To build a green product that endures time it is necessary to develop a design that incorporates the client's ideas as well as using the latest technology to make it as efficient as possible. AENA is constantly researching new materials, systems, and products that make our buildings more sustainable. We strive to make our new construction and renovations as efficient as possible so that owners or tenants do not have to invest more money into making the building efficient in the future.

One of the most difficult challenges in delivering a project is taking what is drawn on paper and making it understood and implemented correctly in the field. AENA has the construction experience to produce designs that can be built within the budget and schedule of our clients. We involve our trade managers and specialized construction personnel in the first stages of design to advise our architects and engineers so any faults in the proposed solution are uncovered early in the process. This allows project time and money to be saved in order to produce the best design possible. Once construction commences, we have the experience that allows us to monitor any work and instruct subcontractors or our own field personnel regarding any questions that may arise about complicated technology. As design-builders AENA's staff of designers, project managers, trade managers, and specialized construction personnel work together to make sure the design is completed on time, on budget, and meet the specifications that the client desired.

During construction AENA specifies all the products necessary to complete the project. We believe that it is important to invest in sustainable materials and provide solutions on a case by case basis. We strive to make the building as sustainable as possible and distinguish true solutions from green trends to increase the sustainability of the structure. One of the ways we do this is to concentrate on the building infrastructure. We use computer generated models to determine costs and energy usage that will be saved by our designs. By using this tool we can determine lifecycle cost and the pay back periods for the client to determine if the sustainable investment will pay for itself and if the outcome on the overall quality of the finished product will justify the additional cost.

Project implementation could not be accomplished without a knowledgeable staff and the proper tools. AENA is constantly investing in our employees to increase their education and experience by promoting industry certifications for all our staff. We offer all employees full health insurance benefits and conduct multiple reviews so that everyone has a chance to receive personal feedback and improve how we work. We also continue to upgrade our office technology and are transitioning to becoming a truly mobile workplace that will allow us to improve cost tracking, scheduling, and energy usage. Last year we researched, purchased and installed the latest computer modeling software so that we could accurately predict how much energy our finished projects would consume. More recently we implemented a system to increase communication and reduce energy consumption in travel between the office and our construction sites. Currently we are upgrading our accounting system to allow us to more specifically allocate and track costs and to monitor schedules with greater accuracy thereby providing our clients with a higher level of information.

By combining our experience with the latest training and technology AENA is positioned to deliver a high quality sustainable building that conforms to the budget, schedule, and vision of our clients.



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