

Green Communities Criteria Checklist

This checklist represents steps that contractors/developers can take to reduce the environmental footprint of the property.

Landscaping

Xeriscaping – A landscaping strategy that uses drought-resistant plants to significantly reduce or eliminate the need for irrigation.

- Plant native or water-conserving plants/trees for landscaping and use decorative garden material (such as rock, stones, potted plants)
- Significantly reduce or eliminate turf area
- When possible, use organic or non-toxic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and pre-emergents
- Maximize mulch
- Incorporate compost into the soil to help improve water absorption and retention
- If property has irrigation system, set timer to 15 minutes per station. Check El Paso Water Utility regulations for watering times and dates.

Water Conservation

- Low flow toilets (1.28 gpf or less)
- Low-flow showerheads (2.0 gpm or less)
- Kitchen faucets (2.0 gpm or less)
- Bathroom faucets (1.5 gpm or less)

Note: Certain existing fixtures, such as bathroom faucets, can be retrofitted with an aerator to reduce water flow to the requisite level.

Energy Efficiency & Lighting

- Lightbulbs—Use Energy Star compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or LED lights. Use T-8 light fixtures with electronic ballasts or better, or any equivalent high-performance lighting fixtures and bulbs in all common areas where appropriate.
- Outside lighting--Should be Energy Star qualified fixtures or LEDs with a minimum efficacy of 45 lumens/watt, equipped with daylight sensors on all outdoor lighting, including front and rear porch lights in single-family homes. Fixtures should include automatic switching on timers or photocell controls for all lighting not intended for 24-hour operation or required for security. All fixtures must be cut-off fixtures that shield light pollution from the night sky.
- Was a Smart Thermostat installed for heating and cooling?
- Install attic hatch – If unit does not have an attic hatch, one could be installed. If installing an attic hatch, the sides should be 22 inches on each side when possible
- Attic hatch dam – An attic hatch dam should be installed in each hatch to ensure that installed insulation does not escape while opening hatch during ingress. The dam's walls should be of sufficient height to enclose insulation.

- Seal and insulate duct work using mastic sealant or foil (metal) tape. Do not use duct tape.
- Seal around registers or grills. Patch any holes around grills or registers.
- Roof Insulation—R-38 (12 in. of loose fill cellulose insulation) should be installed uniformly throughout attic. Tape measures should be installed every 300 sq. ft. to ensure compliance with EPC policy of R-38 insulation in attic.
- Wall insulation – R-15 (if using loose-fill cellulose insulation), then install insulation until tightly packed to eliminate chance of settling over the years)
- Ensure insulation in walls separating garage and the house’s conditioned space.
- Look under sinks to seek holes around plumbing

Caulking

- Use low-VOC caulking that is good for 40-50 years

Appliances – All appliances, where appropriate, are required to be Energy Star

- Is refrigerator Energy Star?
- Is dishwasher Energy Star?
- Is furnace Energy Star?
- Is Water Heater Energy Star?
- If kitchen is in an enclosed room, install a stove vent.

Windows, Doors, and Skylights

For the El Paso region, the following chart applies:

<u>U-factor</u>	<u>Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC)</u>	<u>Visible Transmittance (VT)</u>	<u>Air Leakage (AL)</u>
Windows: U≤0.35 Skylights: U≤0.57	Windows: SHGC≤0.30 Skylights: SHGC≤0.30	Windows: VT=No Requirement Skylights: VT=No Requirement	Windows: AL=No Requirement Skylights: AL=No Requirement
Recommendations			
The larger your heating bill, the more important a low U-factor becomes. A low U-factor is also helpful during hot days when it is important to keep the heat out, but it is less important than	Select windows with a SHGC of 0.30 or less. While windows with lower SHGC values reduce summer cooling and overheating, they also reduce free winter solar heat gain.	Select windows with a higher VT to maximize daylight and view.	Select windows with an AL of 0.30 or less.

SHGC during warm seasons.			
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- Are all windows double pane and low-E?

DOORS		
Glazing Level	U-Factor	SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient)
Opaque	≤ 0.21	No Rating
$\leq \frac{1}{2}$ Lite	≤ 0.27	≤ 0.30
$> \frac{1}{2}$ Lite	≤ 0.32	≤ 0.30

SKYLIGHTS		
Climate zone	U-Factor	SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient)
South-Central	≤ 0.57	≤ 0.30

Paints

- Use Low/No VOC Paints and Primers
- Use Low/No VOC Adhesives and Sealants
- Avoid epoxy-based paints

Flooring

- Tile should be used in high-traffic areas of a home, which includes, but is not limited to: 1) entryways, 2) hallways, 3) kitchens, 4) restrooms, 5) laundry rooms, 6) utility rooms, and 7) any other rooms with ground-connected floors.
- Use alternative flooring materials such as natural linoleum, ceramic tile, bamboo, cork, or hardwood (especially salvaged wood).

FANS

- Install Energy Star-labeled intermittent bathroom fans that exhaust to the outdoors (not into the attic), are connected to a light-switch, and are equipped with a humidistat sensor, timer, or other control (e.g., occupancy sensor, delay off switch, ventilation controller). Intermittent fans should operate at an exhaust rate of 50 cfm.

OR

- Install Energy Star-labeled continuous bathroom fans that exhaust to the outdoors and operate continuously at a rate of 20 cfm.
- Install power-vented fans or range hoods in kitchen that exhaust to the outdoors at an intermittent rate of 100 cfm.

OR

- Install power-vented fans or range hoods that exhaust to the outdoors at a continuous rate of five air changes per hour based on kitchen volume.