



Earth Advantage Institute

Earth Advantage Institute (EAI) began nearly a decade ago as a utility-based energy conservation program of Portland General Electric. In the spring of 2005, EAI became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Since that time, the organization has established itself as the premier service provider of green building programs for the built environment. Earth Advantage Institute certifies homes as a third-party verifier for the ENERGY STAR® and LEED® for Homes programs, as well as for its own residential, commercial, communities, and remodeling programs. In addition, EAI provides green design and consulting services, conducts education and training seminars, and is a key contributor to the development of green building standards and climate solutions involving this sector. The organization includes over 400 builders, remodelers, and sponsors throughout Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Northern California, with licensed partners in the seven states of New England.

Elevator speech options

EAI is a leading environmental steward for the built world, delivering education, verification, training, and enhanced value proposition for constituents in the building, real estate, development, and climate change sectors.

EAI Programs and Department Leaders

New Homes

Senior Sales & Outreach Director

Duane Woik

Builder Outreach Specialists

Portland: Andrew Shepard, Dan Saddler

Central Oregon: Bruce Sullivan

Southern Oregon: Fred Gant

Willamette Valley: Eli Volem

Program description

Earth Advantage Institute offers a premier suite of sustainable building and value-adding solutions to the building community. These third-party certified, green building certifications include the Earth Advantage® program, as well as other national programs, such as ENERGY STAR® and LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Homes.

LEED for Homes

LEED for Homes – Earth Advantage Institute is the program provider for the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes in the Pacific Northwest. As a program provider, EAI is responsible for working with those entities that wish to build their projects to the LEED for Homes standard, teaching building professionals about incorporating high performance green building practices and materials into their projects. This includes performance testing and compliance with the pilot rating system. LEED for Homes – Earth Advantage Institute currently has 27 builders with more than 177 projects under agreement. Program Manager Randy Hansell, as well as senior green building consultants and

USGBC faculty, deliver certification and rater trainings to building industry professionals across the United States.

Earth Advantage® Homes

Each new contractor, their staff and the subcontractors involved with the Earth Advantage Homes program receive a variety of training conducted by Earth Advantage field technicians. Each builder and the trades involved on the project receive personal instruction on the structure and goals of the program, a detailed review of the point sheets, and the Earth Advantage Measures Resource Guide. These materials and additional support are also available as online resources.

Since 2000, Earth Advantage has certified nearly 9,000 homes throughout Oregon and SW Washington. Since January 2008, 4,06 stick built homes and 66 manufactured homes have been certified. Additionally, the organization has engaged several production builders to deliver 100% Earth Advantage® homes, including Palmer Homes, Renaissance, New Tradition Homes, Palm Harbor of Millersburg, DR Horton, and Legend Homes.

ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. The program provides energy efficient products and practices to save costs and protect the environment. Energy efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bills without sacrificing features, style, or comfort. Similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions can be expected.

Territories

In less than a decade, Earth Advantage expanded its presence along the West Coast from the Portland metro area to SW Washington, Central Oregon, Southern Oregon, and Northern California. Its LEED for Homes program spans the United States with projects in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Hawaii, Alaska, New Mexico, Minnesota, and Tennessee. Partnering with Conservation Services Group, Earth Advantage launched its premier building program in New England in 2008.

Remodeling

Remodel & EPS Program Manager

David Heslam

Program description

The Earth Advantage remodeling program demonstrates effective ways for remodelers and homeowners to renovate homes so that they use less energy, fewer natural resources, improve indoor air quality, and are more environmentally responsible.

Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Community Program Manager

Ann Griffin

Program description

The Earth Advantage Sustainable Community program is an innovative certification and planning tool. It provides builders with a framework to develop community projects that meet specific criteria in natural, built, connectivity and mobility, and community systems.

Education and Training

Education Coordinator

Katie Schnepf

Program description

Earth Advantage Institute is committed to providing relevant, cutting-edge education for the community. Specializing in environmental building knowledge, EAI provides education on sustainability to builders, architects, real estate professionals, and homeowners.

EDUCATION & TRAINING details

Earth Advantage Institute provides significant, progressive education for the building industry community. Acknowledging that education is often the greatest environmental issue, EAI continues to develop new curriculum and training programs.

*See educational handout for a list of upcoming classes.

STAR (Sustainability Training for Real Estate Professionals)

The STAR course is designed to provide real estate professionals with a market advantage by supplying essential green building and real estate knowledge. Agents will be able to assist clients in understanding and evaluating options for homes in terms of energy and water efficiency, air quality, and other green home features. Since its launch in August 2007, over 6,500 real estate agents have graduated as Earth Advantage Brokers. Class benefits include designation as a Certified Earth Advantage Broker, 90-days technical support, 16 continuing education credits, a listing on the Earth Advantage Web site as a STAR trained broker, and participation in alumni group events and classes.

Sustainable Homes Professional (SHP)

Sustainable Homes Professional certification is a rigorous curriculum that offers builders, remodelers, designers, and architects the strategies needed to achieve high-performance residential construction. Six monthly sessions, each two days in length, are comprised of interactive workshops, site visits, readings, homework, and a final project. In-depth training is provided on advanced building science topics such as certification programs, integrated design, envelope performance, mechanical systems, health, materials, and resource efficiency. Students gain the technical knowledge and tools needed to implement sustainable building practices.

Carbon Consulting (Climate Solutions)

Director of Climate Solutions

Bill Jones, PhD

Program description

Global climate change affects everyone. Houses and commercial buildings in the United States are responsible for over 30% of the nation's annual greenhouse gas emissions. Earth Advantage Institute's Climate Solutions program works with realtors, builders, and consumers to help combat the contribution that homes and buildings make to the climate crisis.

Technical Services

Residential Technical Consultant

Glenn Waer

Program description

Earth Advantage Institute provides consulting and technical services to builders and subcontractors throughout the construction process. Infrared cameras, energy modeling software, and performance tests are all used to help certify an Earth Advantage home.

Earth Advantage® National Center

Offering a cutting-edge energy efficiency and sustainable design resource, this facility is designed to help homebuilders, architects, contractors, and homeowners design houses that use energy and resources wisely. Visitors to the Earth Advantage National Center will be assisted by a team of green building consultants, providing a wide range of energy efficiency and sustainable design ideas. The Conference and Training Room space can accommodate up to 80 people in its 2,500+ sq. ft. of meeting space. The vendor showroom, lighting display, and demonstration house are popular with workshop participants, builders, and general audiences who prefer an experiential way of learning about green building practices.

EAI Program Team Leaders

New Homes Program

Duane Woik, Green Building Consultant

Woik has 21 years of sales and marketing experience with extensive knowledge of building science and green building practices and products. Woik is currently a director with the Oregon Home Builders Association, as well as a director of Solar Oregon. Appointed in 2002, Woik also serves on the National Association of Home Builders Green Building committee. As a green building consultant with Earth Advantage, Woik works with builders and developers across Oregon to promote sustainable building practices and to train building professionals.

Tim Ahaus, Business Development Manager

Ahaus works with green building product vendors by adding value to their contribution via sponsorship dollars. He also works with key partners and associations in collaboration and joint branding efforts and works on special projects and events. Creating brand value and solidifying the Earth Advantage name in the market place is the priority and objective of his efforts. Ahaus's green building experience comes from several years as a marketing coordinator for an energy efficient construction company in his home state of Idaho in the late 1990s.

Randy Hansell, LEED Program Manager

Hansell is a senior green building consultant with Earth Advantage Institute. His expertise includes research, program design, and implementation, with extensive experience in residential sustainable building design strategies and project management. He is currently a faculty member of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for Homes committee and is Earth Advantage's program manager for delivering the LEED for Homes program in the Northwest. Hansell oversees LEED for Homes projects in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Alaska, Montana, Wyoming, and Hawaii.

Andrew Shepard, Green Building Consultant & Builder Outreach Specialist

Shepard's key role at Earth Advantage is to work with builders to help them understand the concepts of green building, energy efficient practices, and sustainability. As a certified verifier for the NW ENERGY STAR New Homes Program, he guides builders through the process of building green, understanding the program, and reaching certification. Shepard is also involved with EAI's STAR (Sustainable Training for Accredited Realty Professionals) program, developing EAI's Sustainable Communities standard, the 2009 Earth Advantage Silver Program, and the USGBC's pilot LEED for Homes program.

Dan Saddler, Green Building Consultant & Builder Outreach Specialist

Saddler joined the Earth Advantage team in February 2008 to support builders as they navigate the green building certification process. His efforts are vital to the department of green building consultants that market Earth Advantage building programs and deliver technical training to building industry professionals. Saddler also holds certifications as a LEED Accredited Professional and Sustainability Building Advisor. Native to Gresham, Oregon, Dan is active with the OSU-Extension Master Recycler program.

Glenn Waer, Senior Residential Technical Specialist

Waer has 26 years experience with residential energy efficiency, including materials installation, home inspections, and energy program management. He oversees the technical team, reviews site plans for all program certification, and heads the Federal Tax Credit program for residential contractors with qualifying projects. Waer holds certifications as a verifier/rater for the suite of Earth Advantage programs. He is also a state certified HVAC duct tester, certified RESENT HERS rater, and energy conservation / green building consultant. Prior to joining Earth Advantage Institute, Waer worked with public and private utilities for 14 years, designing, implementing, and performing administrative duties for the utilities' energy programs.

Bruce Sullivan, Green Building Consultant (Bend, Oregon)

Sullivan has been involved in energy efficient construction since 1983. He has worked for the Oregon State University Extension Service, Eugene Water & Electric Board, and Iris Communications, Inc. In 1996, he established Oikos.com, one of the world's first Web sites dedicated to green building. In 2006, Bruce's personal high performance residence, built by SunTerra Homes, was honored with the NAHB Research Center's EnergyValue Housing Award and the NAHB Green Building Award. Sullivan works from Earth Advantage's Bend office.

Mike Lillesand, Verifier Oversight Specialist & Green Building Integration Coordinator

Lillesand's role with the NW ENERGY STAR New Homes Program is to coordinate outreach efforts to verifiers within Energy Trust of Oregon service territories. His role also includes working closely with green building programs to promote the many attributes of ENERGY STAR as the energy component within such programs. Prior to his current role, Lillesand worked as a field technician for Earth Advantage. Responsibilities included performance testing of Earth Advantage and ENERGY STAR dwellings, as well as determining site inspections to verify proper building material selection and implementation. Lillesand is a certified verifier, certified sustainable building advisor (CSBA) and is a graduate of Portland State University's School of Urban Studies and Planning.

Fred Gant, Green Building Consultant & Southern Oregon Field Rep. (Ashland, OR)

Grant offers the Earth Advantage Homes program to builders throughout southern Oregon. He educates builders on the basics of green building, markets the Earth Advantage program to service groups and educational organizations, and provides inspections and certifications. Grant has more than 25 years of experience as a builder with Fred Gant Construction specializing in sun rooms and solariums. A highlight of his experience was building his own Earth Advantage home, complete with photovoltaics on his rental cottage that qualified for the Business Energy Tax Credit.

Eli Volem, Green Building Consultant & Builder Outreach Specialist

Volem provides an Earth Advantage presence within the Energy Trust of Oregon's ENERGY STAR New Homes program. Eli is trained as a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) rater and ENERGY STAR homes verifier. He primarily assists builders with creating energy efficient, durable, healthier, and more environmentally responsible homes through Earth Advantage, ENERGY STAR Homes, and LEED for Homes certification programs. He provides technical training and support in the field through construction, as well as sales and marketing support through the sales process. Before joining Earth Advantage, Volem worked for Conservation Services Group in a similar role. Prior to that, he worked in sales and marketing in the online advertising and tourism industries.

Katie Schnepf, Education Coordinator

Schnepf joined the Earth Advantage team in 2008. Her passion is educating the building industry about the value of green homes. She oversees the coordination of education and training offerings, and is developing new curriculum to meet the needs of the growing market. As a volunteer, Schnepf facilitates Portland LEED Users Group (PLUG) meetings

through the Cascadia Green Building Council and recently returned from restoring homes in the hurricane-affected areas of New Orleans. Schnepf brings 10 years of experience as an educator, project manager, and event coordinator with groups in Oregon, Michigan, Maine, North Carolina, and her native New York.

Bill Jones

William M. Jones, PhD, is a planner and economist with over 25 years of consulting experience, providing environmental and natural resource planning, sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, public infrastructure, and economic assessment services to public and private clients. He has expertise in economics (forecasting, assessment, B/C, natural resource); strategic/policy planning (climate change mitigation and adaptation, program, infrastructure, community, natural resource); regulatory compliance; land use planning; project, client and staff management; and business development. Work has included international, national, regional, and local engagements that cover policy, permitting, economics, and planning. Clients include international, federal, state, and local public agencies; port authorities; public utilities; nonprofit agencies; and private clients. Jones has a PhD and master's degree in public health in planning (natural resource economics) from Columbia University. He also has a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Oregon.

Ann Griffin (more to come)

David Heslam

David Heslam, remodeling program manager, has 14 years in the field of residential construction. This includes 9 years as the owner of Coho Construction Services, Inc., a leading green building firm in Oregon that Heslam founded in 1999. Under Heslam's guidance, Coho built a wide variety of green and high performance custom homes and remodels. He employed many different advanced wall systems including SIPS, ICF, staggered stud walls, Larson truss stud walls, interior strapped walls, and continuous exterior foam walls. In addition to varied experience creating high performance building envelopes, he has experience with a wide variety of mechanical systems, water conservation techniques, low toxicity techniques, and resource efficient building techniques. Many of these Coho projects received grant money and were pioneering efforts in the region. Heslam brings this expertise to EAI along with many years of building education conducted through workshops, presentations, and building tours.