

DEFINITIONS

What is Universal Design?

The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

The Principles of Universal Design:

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use

Quoted from: The Center for Universal Design (1997). The Principles of Universal Design, Version; Copyright ©1997 NC State University, The Center for Universal Design.”

What is a CDC?

A community development corporation (CDC) is a non-profit organization that is created to revitalize a low - or moderate-income community. CDCs are created by people with a stake in the community itself. This can include residents of the target area, churches or other religious institutions, and sometimes, small business owners. The CDC model is one of self-help. People from the target area form their own organization to address their own needs. It is not the creation of people from outside the community.

Quoted from: National Congress for Community Economic Development

<http://www.ncced.org>

What is a CLT?

A Community Land Trust is a mechanism for the democratic ownership of land by the local community. Land is taken out of the market and separated from its productive use so that the impact of land appreciation is removed, therefore enabling long-term affordable and sustainable local development. The value of public investment, philanthropic gifts, charitable endowments, legacies or development gain is thus captured in perpetuity, underpinning the sustainable development of a defined locality or community. Through CLTs, local residents and businesses participate in and take responsibility for planning and delivering redevelopment schemes.

Quoted from: <http://www.communitylandtrust.org.uk/index.php>

What is Sustainable Development?

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (*Brundtland Commission, 1987*)

What is Carbon Neutral?

Carbon Neutral status means that the emissions from an operation, activity or series of activities have been:

- Assessed and calculated
- Reduced where possible
- Remaining emissions have been 'offset' through climate-friendly projects

Through this process, CO₂ emissions can be reduced to net zero. And, through offset, financing is provided to help enable lower carbon behaviors elsewhere in the world.

Quoted from: <http://www.carbonneutral.com/pages/becomingcarbonneutral.asp>

Global Green’s Green Affordable Housing Initiative (GAHI)

Through the Greening Affordable Housing Initiative, Global Green works to encourage the adoption of green building strategies and materials in affordable housing. Working with green building and affordable housing organizations, Global Green provides information and education on the practices and components of green affordable housing, cost issues and financial strategies, and relevant policy initiatives. Global Green has conducted over 30 workshops on greening affordable housing; facilitated over 25 green building charrettes; and authored publications and case studies.

Quoted from: <http://www.globalgreen.org/greenbuilding/GAHI.html>

How Wetland Restoration Can Reduce Flooding

Wetlands function as natural sponges that trap and slowly release surface water, rain, snowmelt, groundwater and floodwaters. Trees, root mats, and other wetland vegetation also slow the speed of flood waters and distribute them more slowly over the floodplain. This combined water storage and braking action lowers flood heights and reduces erosion. Wetlands within and downstream of urban areas are particularly valuable, counteracting the greatly increased rate and volume of surface-water runoff from pavement and buildings. The holding capacity of wetlands helps control floods and prevents water logging of crops. Preserving and restoring wetlands, together with other water retention, can often provide the level of flood control otherwise provided by expensive dredge operations and levees. The bottomland hardwood-riparian wetlands along the Mississippi River once stored at least 60 days of floodwater. Now they store only 12 days because most have been filled or drained.

Quoted from: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/flood.html>

Broadmoor House Elevation Requirements (post-Katrina):

- 3.0’below sea level - must be raised 4.5 feet to + 1.5 feet above sea level.
- 5.0’below sea level – must be raised 9.0 feet to + 4.0 feet above sea level.

The New Orleans Principles (U.S. Green Building Council)

1. Respect the rights of all citizens of New Orleans Displaced citizens who wish to return to New Orleans should be afforded the opportunity to return to healthy, livable, safe, and secure neighborhoods of choice.
2. Restore natural protections of the greater New Orleans region Sustain and restore the coastal and floodplain ecosystems and urban forests that support and protect the environment, economy, communities, and culture of southern Louisiana, and that contribute greatly to the economy and well being of the nation.
3. Implement an inclusive planning process Build a community-centered planning process that uses local talent and makes sure that the voices of all New Orleanians are heard.
4. Value diversity in New Orleans Build on the traditional strength of New Orleans neighborhoods, encourage mixed uses and diverse housing options, and foster communities of varied incomes, mixed age groups, and a racial diversity.
5. Protect the city of New Orleans Expand or build a good protection infrastructure that serves multiple uses.
6. Embrace smart redevelopment Maintain and strengthen the New Orleans tradition of compact, connected, mixed-use communities. Provide residents and visitors with multiple transportation options. Look to schools for jumpstarting neighborhood redevelopment and for rebuilding strong communities in the city.
7. Honor the past; build for the future In the rebuilding of New Orleans, honor the history of the city while creating 21st century buildings that are durable, affordable, inexpensive to operate, and healthy to live in.
8. Provide for passive survivability Homes, schools, public buildings, and neighborhoods should be designed and built or rebuilt to serve as livable refuges in the event of crisis or breakdown of energy, water, and sewer systems.
9. Foster locally owned, sustainable businesses Support existing and new local businesses built on a platform of sustainability that will contribute to a stronger and more diverse local economy.
10. Focus on the long term, all measures related to rebuilding and ecological restoration, even short-term efforts, must be undertaken with explicit attention to the long-term solutions.

The New Orleans Principles can be downloaded at:

http://green_reconstruction.buildinggreen.com/documents