

Green Building

Before applying for a grant to construct or renovate your facility, the Gates Family Foundation encourages you to consider strategies to minimize the environmental impact and maximize the efficiency of your new or renovated building. While the Foundation does not insist that new projects earn LEED certification, it strongly urges nonprofits to consult with their architects and contractors early in the planning and design process to identify important ways to maximize efficiency. Below are a few resources to help your organization get started:

Consult these resources for more complete information:

- [US Green Building Council - Colorado Chapter](#) (USGBCColorado) is a Colorado-based nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainable building design and construction. This website provides criteria, checklists, and an excellent list of local resources for building green.
- [Energy Outreach Colorado](#) operates the Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program (NEEP). This agency helps nonprofits receive energy audits and efficiency improvements to help offset increasing energy bills.
- [The International Center for Appropriate Sustainable Technology](#) (iCAST) develops sustainable solutions to improve existing infrastructures and foster economic development. This agency also conducts energy audits for nonprofit agencies.
- [ENERGY STAR](#) is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy designed to help the private, public, and nonprofit sectors adopt and implement successful strategies for effective energy efficiency management. This website will connect you with a broad range of tools and resources to help you identify energy efficient products and practices.