



# GREEN-HOME TRENDS FOR REAL ESTATE AGENTS

In design and home life, green continues to gain momentum, and it can be a lucrative niche for real estate agents. Beyond the benefits of making homes more sustainable and reducing our footprints on the world, new designs and increasing demand is making green technology, in some cases, cheaper than traditional methods.

### Smart Homes

Smart homes are becoming the norm both in home renovations and new construction. Voice activated and app directed commands allow you to schedule indoor and outdoor lighting as well as heating, cooling, watering and washing—allowing you to take advantage of non-peak hours and control electrical usage while out of town.

### Deconstructed Design

Not to be confused with Deconstructivism (asymmetrical architecture and design), deconstruction is a concept that utilizes recycled raw materials. This new trend is toward more authentic, natural materials such as exposed wood, metal and brick. It's an exposed style of un-building reminiscent of Frank Gehry in the '90s, but with a more refined and green edge to it through its emphasis on reuse, salvaged and donated materials. And by mixing in more green materials such as quick-growing bamboo, you can even add "newer" natural materials to the mix.

### Better Energy Generation and Storage

Smart tech is making life easier, cleaner and cheaper. More efficient batteries are making electrical storage more effective,

while microgrids allow you to use and buy electricity from off-grid sources, making it easier to take advantage of more clean energy than ever before. Additionally, solar technology, and the selling benefits they provide, make electricity increasingly cheaper for the homeowner. The continued trend in solar technology is making it equal and even cheaper than traditional energy, ensuring it pays for itself and then some.

### Prefab Home Designs

The focus on prefab, modular style homes continues, providing many benefits. Prefab homes are produced in closed settings, away from the elements that keep production times reliable and materials from getting damaged by weather. And increased focus on computerized cutting and standardized sizing allows for maximum usage of materials, resulting in less waste. Since the designs are made to ship, there is special attention placed in durable construction. And with an increased focus on shipping cargo containers in design, there is less container waste in the environment along with the added durability these containers provide.

### Tiny Home Additions

These homes have benefits such as fewer materials, less energy and less waste than traditional homes, making it easy for you to create zero environmental impact. They function in ways beyond daily living working great as vacation cabins, guest quarters, pool houses and home offices. And one of the attractions of tiny homes is their ability to avoid permanent footings that allow them to retain a portability designation for financial savings.

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