Americans Want Smart, Healthy, Energy-Efficient Homes. Here's How to Move Them from Desire to Action





Need help effectively marketing your organization? Contact Shelton Group, the nation's leading marketing communications agency exclusively focused in the energy and environmental arena: http://www.sheltongrp.com/; info@sheltongrp.com.

Thank you!



We create a market advantage for organizations that create a sustainable, energy-responsible future





The company we keep

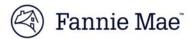














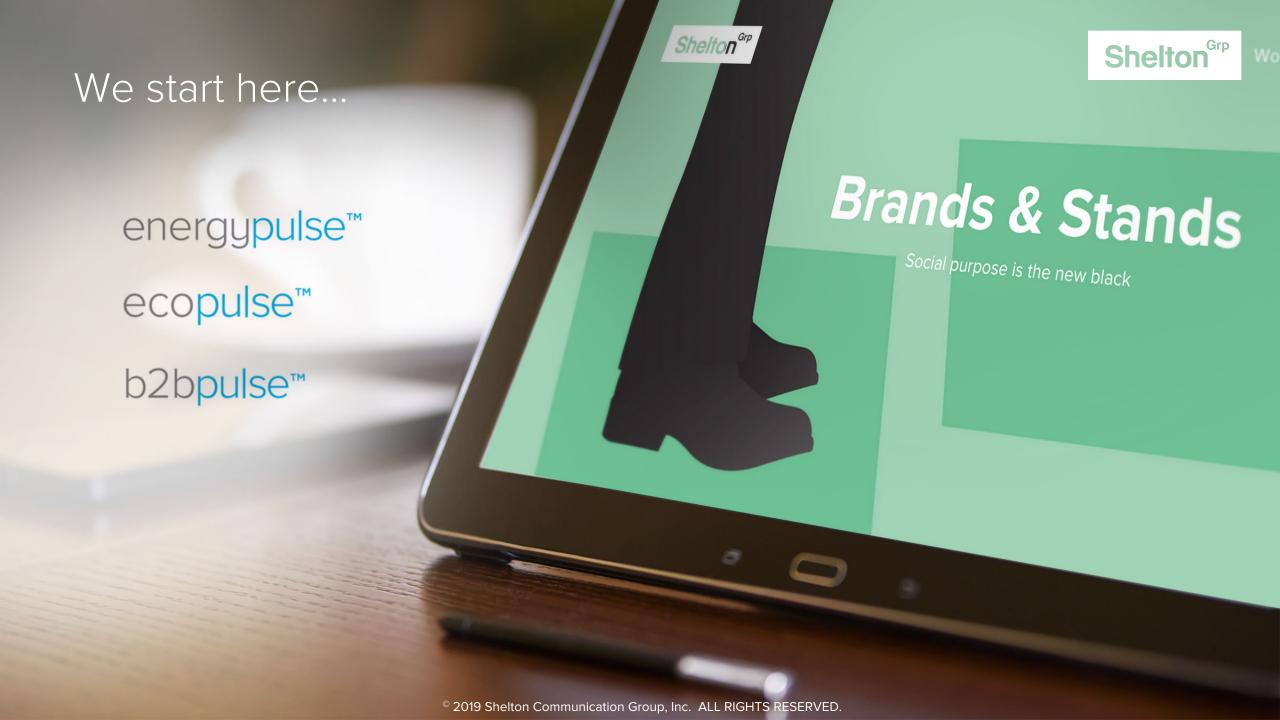




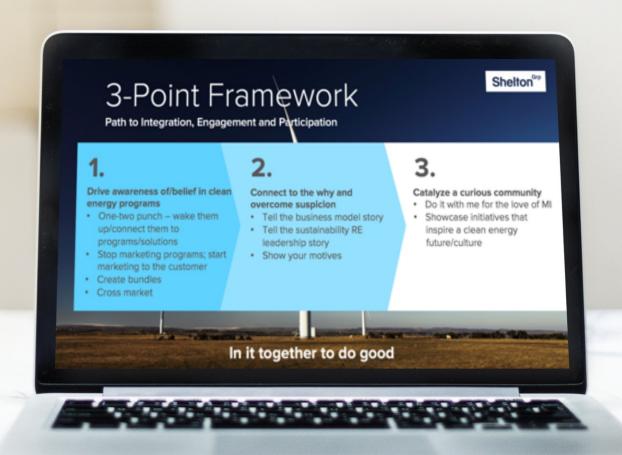








...and we end with marketing strategies and plans that build brands, shift perceptions and drive sales...







A trip down memory lane



America is in the middle of a social/cultural shift regarding the environment





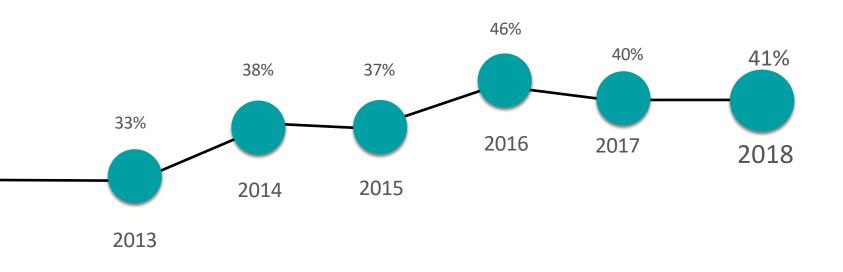
82%

of **Millennials** are anxious about how climate change will affect their children's quality of life





Would you like to be seen as someone who buys eco-friendly products?







say a company's environmental reputation impacts their purchase decisions





of Americans believe that companies should take a stand for social issues



Can you think of a time when you've purchased — or not purchased — a product based on the environmental record of the manufacturer?



Name the brand or company.





of Americans can name a specific brand they've purchased — or not purchased — because of the environmental record of the manufacturer... from 2009 - 2014 it was











of people who expect to buy a new home in the next two years say higher energy efficiency would cause them to choose one new home over another



energypulse™

nationally representative sample of

100%

of Americans



Just over half

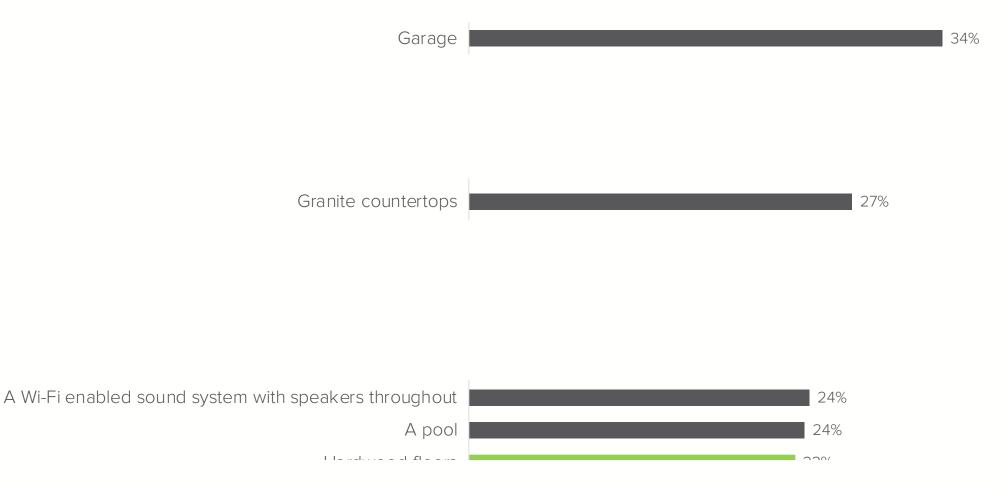
(55%) of those in the market for a new home say that energy efficiency would very/strongly impact their new home purchase decision.

20%

of Americans say they are planning to buy a home in the next 2 years

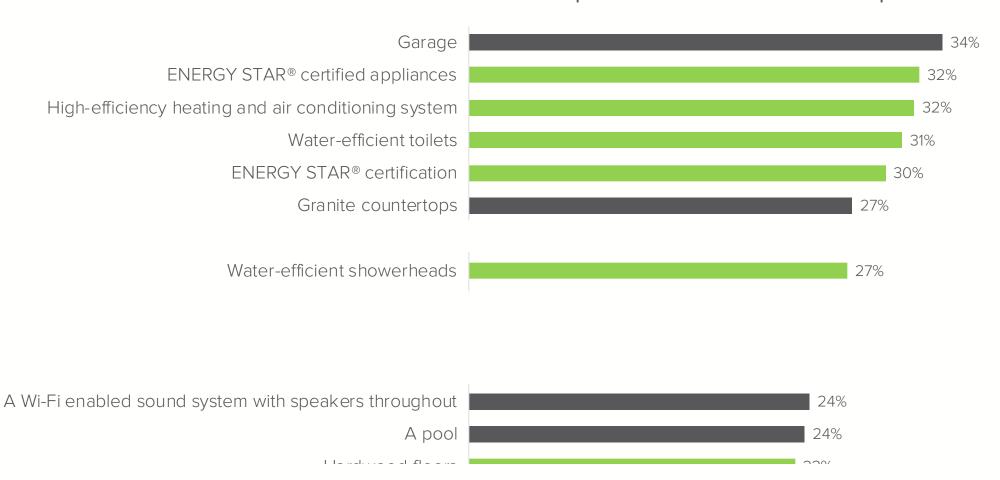
Garages, granite countertops, sound systems and pools still make the top 15 list for features these buyers want...





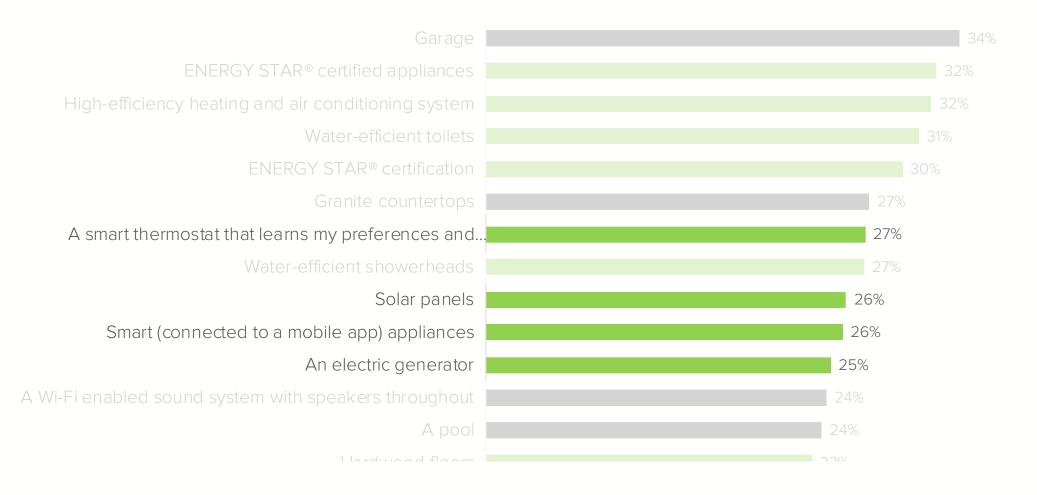
... yet ENERGY STAR® appliances and certification, as well as efficient HVACs and toilets, make up the bulk of the top tier.





... and smart thermostats and appliances, along with solar panels and generators, are wanted more than pools.







There's just one problem...



Most people don't connect their homes to their environmental impact







Of Americans name their homes, buildings or electricity production as a leading cause of climate change





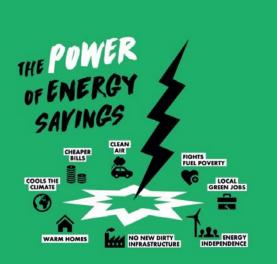
Admit they've done nothing to improve the efficiency of their homes



So why is that?

Why the giant disconnect?





INFORMAL ENERGY
COUNCIL ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Valletta, 18-19 May 2017



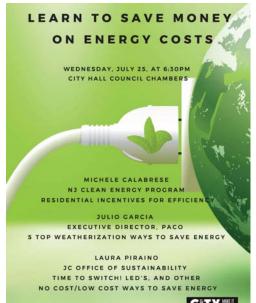


SAVE ENERGY (I/A)

Wash your clothes on cold to save energy and money.



ENERGY & RENEWABLE ENERGY







energy-savings goals.

TAKE QUIZ

CONSERVE TO SAVE THE

lanet or ///one

YOU'RE GOOD EITHER WAY.

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What people do when we say "save money" or "save energy"







Most people don't think they need energy efficiency.

79%

of Americans don't think they use more energy than they did 5 years ago 44%

think their homes are already energy efficient







50%

claim to have made 1-3 efficiency improvements to their homes

63%

of those people say their utility bills did not go down







How much Americans expect to save on their utility bill if they spend \$1,500 on energy-efficient products or improvements



84%

say they know **only a little or nothing** about what to do to improve home energy efficiency





Bottom line:

Screaming "save money" isn't the way in.

Messaging that aligns with what they actually care about is.



Americans are worried about how the products in their lives the impact on their health

We're starting to avoid buying products we fear might contaminate our bodies or have adverse effects

"I use [The Honest Company's organic all-purpose balm] in place of Vaseline. It has no petroleum and is totally organic...Products containing petroleum jelly can contaminate the body, interfere with estrogen levels, and may contain carcinogenic substances." -Eco Pulse Online Ethnography Participant, 2018





But we aren't just motivated by our own health—the health and safety of our families is an important motivator, as well

"When my kids were little, [the Honest Company] had a baby body care line, and it was ridiculously expensive. But I didn't care. I think like most parents I tend to spend a lot more money on the kids' stuff than I would myself because you want it to be all organic and you don't want it to have dyes."

-Eco Pulse Online Ethnography Participant, 2018

When it comes to the health and safety of products, there are 3 important product categories:





In-me products

In-me products are defined as anything the consumer might eat or drink Examples: Food items, drinks, medicines, etc.



On-me products

On-me products are defined as anything that comes in contact with the consumer's body, but is not consumed Examples: Personal care items, clothing, etc.



Around-me products

Around-me products are defined as anything that exists in a consumer's environment, but does not necessarily come into direct contact with the consumer Examples: Insulation, paint, flooring, etc.





We thought that Americans would *care more* about



products they eat (In Me) or touch (On Me) than



products in their environment (Around Me)



But we were surprised!



- 1. Thinking about products you eat or drink, which of the following are reasons why you would choose a greener product option?
- 2. Thinking about products that come in contact with your body, but you do not consume, which of the following are reasons why you would choose a greener product option?
- 3. Thinking about products or materials for your home or work (e.g., furniture, windows, flooring, insulation, paint, etc.), which of the following are reasons why you would choose a greener product option?

The drivers for choosing greener products in all three categories are surprisingly similar







40%

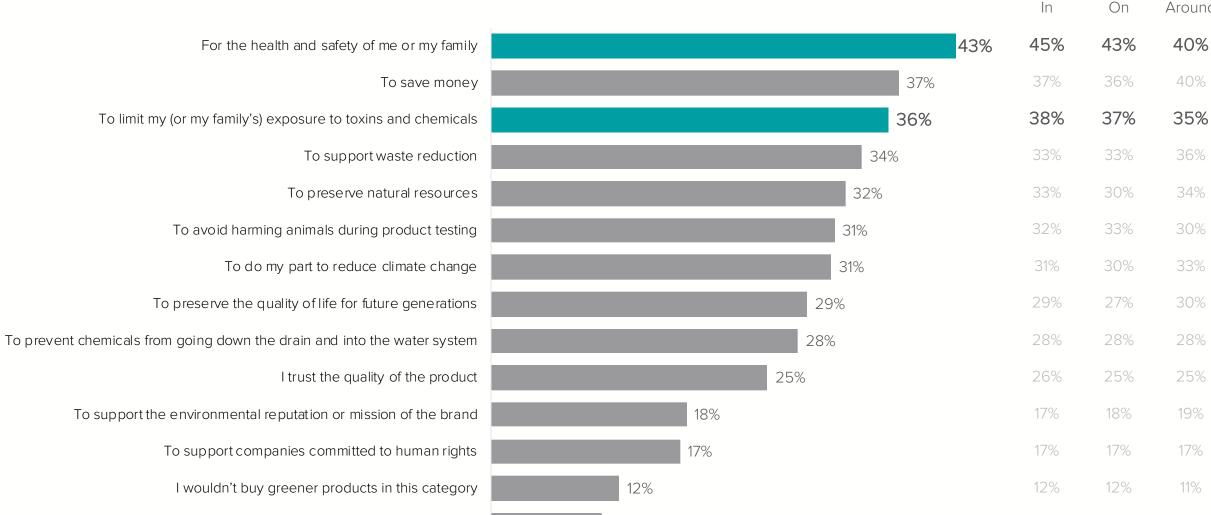
28%

25%

17%

11%

10%



Source: Eco Pulse[™]. Shelton Group. 2018

It goes with my personal image

10%

10%

10%

And the intensity of the specific health drivers that influence purchase decisions are similar too, regardless of category





In

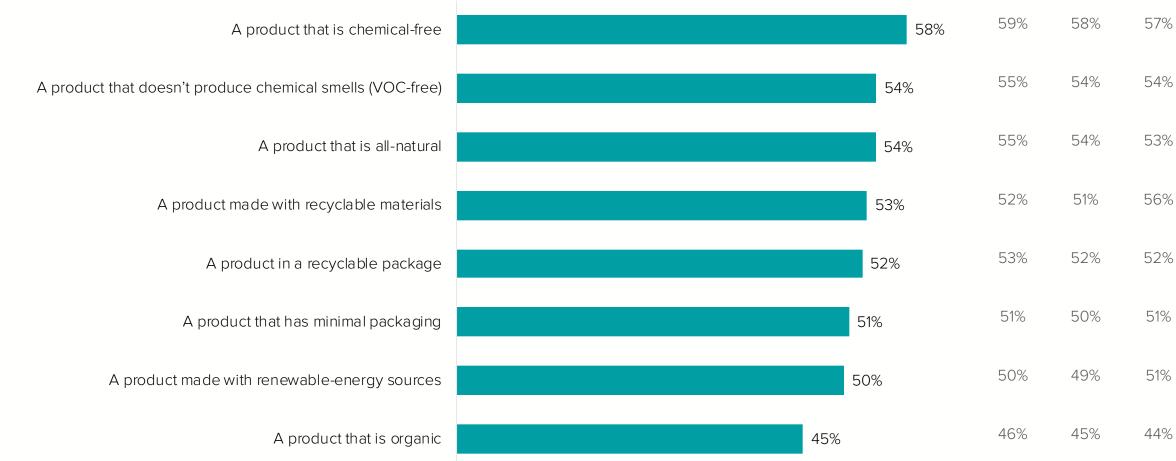


On



Around





Source: Eco Pulse[™], Shelton Group, 2018

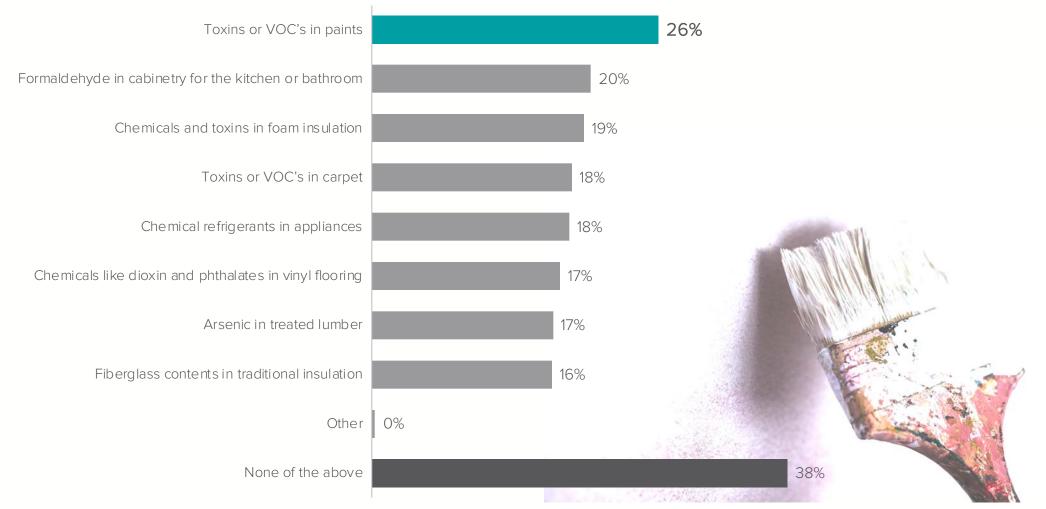




We dug a little deeper in the "around me" category, thinking specifically about their home environments

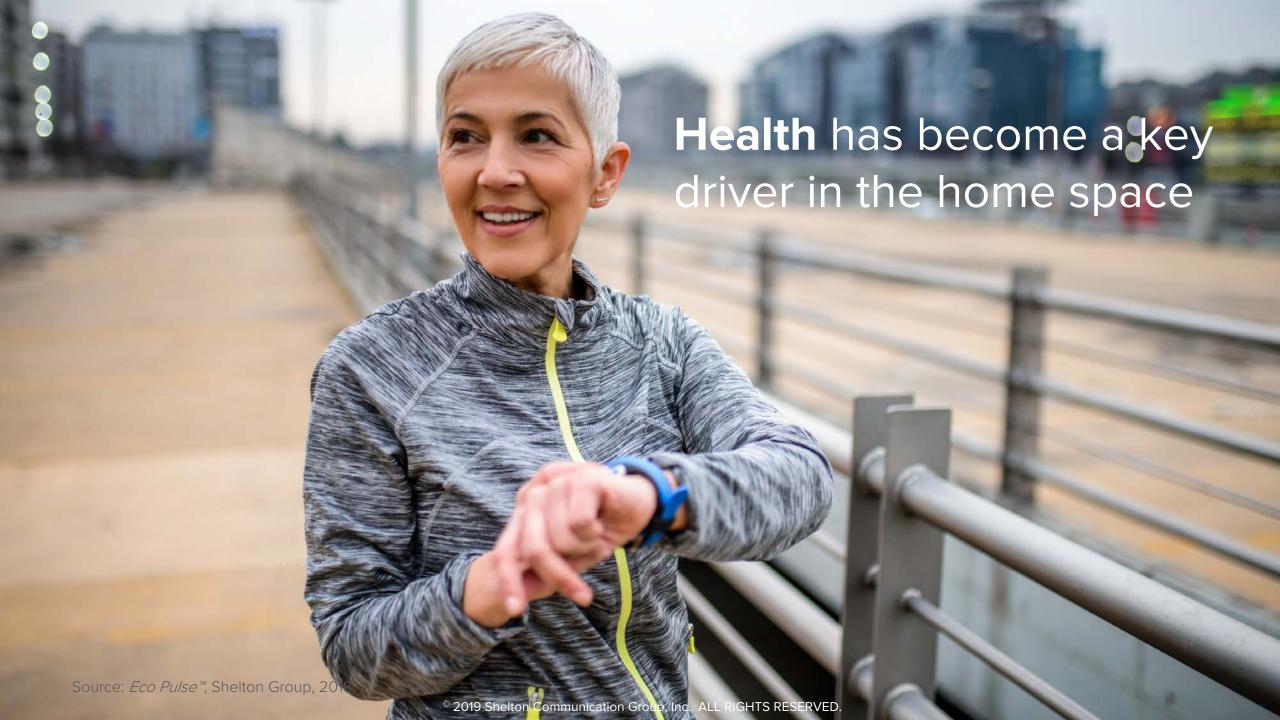
When it comes to home products, their health concerns are about chemicals/toxins







And those concerns about the home environment are just one indicator of an **overarching trend** that's emerging:





believe their house has a moderate to strong impact on their health





are at least moderately concerned about indoor air quality



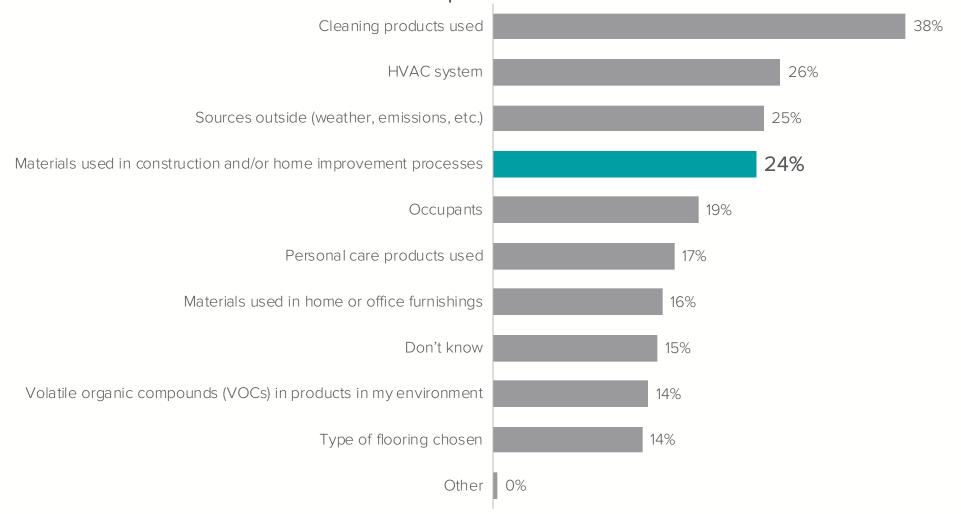
Which often leads to considering upgrades to ventilation systems

51%

of consumers say it is important to upgrade the air ventilation system in their homes



They perceive IAQ issues to stem from the original construction of the home; nearly 1 in 4 believe construction materials are the cause of poor IAQ

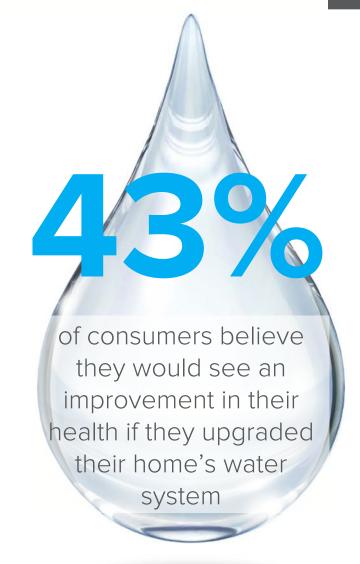




But it's not just air quality they're concerned with



Water systems are candidates for upgrades as well



So what can home builders offer consumers to meet this desire for "healthy"?

Source: Energy Pulse™, Shelton Group, 2019



Energy efficiency



of consumers believe that an **energy-efficient** home is a healthy home

Smart technology





of consumers believe that **smart technology** makes a healthy home possible

And layering smart tech with EE only makes each more appealing



58%

of consumers are somewhat to very interested in adding smart tech to their home for EE reasons

How interested are you in adding smart home features for EE reasons – maximizing how heating/cooling systems work or using less energy overall, etc.??



In short, a smart, energy-efficient home is a healthy home



So where do smart and EE overlap?



EE Technology

Devices, machines, or products designed to monitor or reduce energy use





Smart Technology

Devices controlled via the internet or mobile devices; learned behavior devices





EE Technology

Devices, machines, or products designed to monitor or reduce energy use

> **Energy Star** appliances

EE windows

LED lightbulbs

EE insulation

Smart Technology

Devices controlled via the internet or mobile devices; learned behavior devices

Voice

Ring doorbells

Smart locks

Wifi-controlled sprinklers

assistants

Nest

thermostat

Wifi-controlled

LEDs

Smart plugs

What is smart and EE technology doing for consumers now?



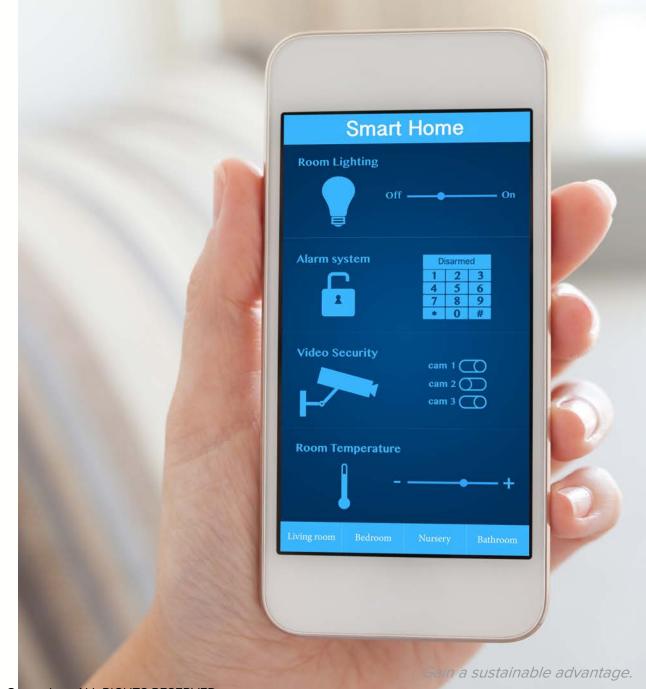


6196

of consumers agree that smart home technology makes their life easier

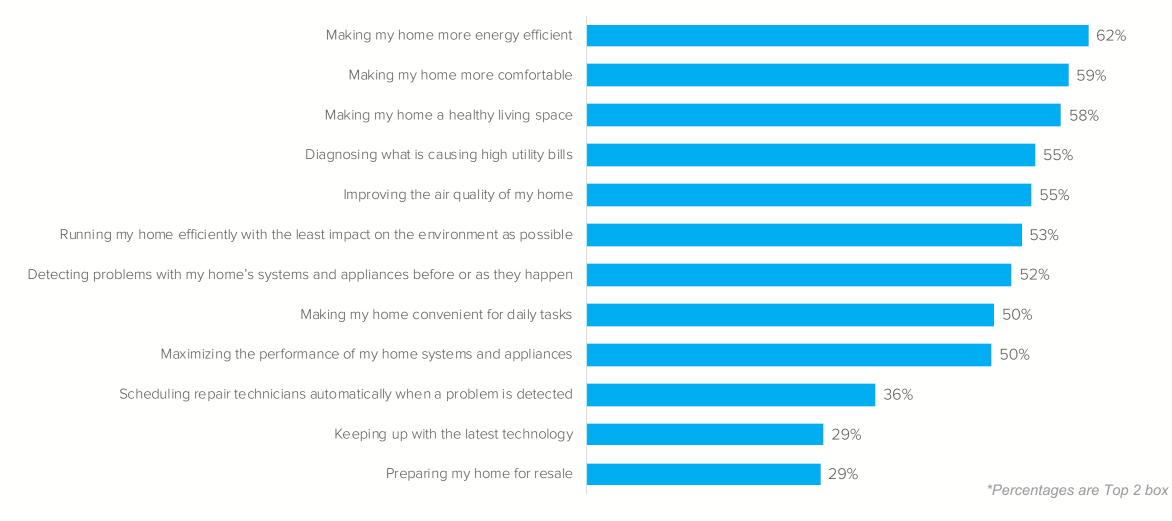
*Smart home technology defined as devices controlled via the internet or mobile device and learned-behavior devices

Smart tech provides tangible benefits like...



...alleviating the hassles of everyday life





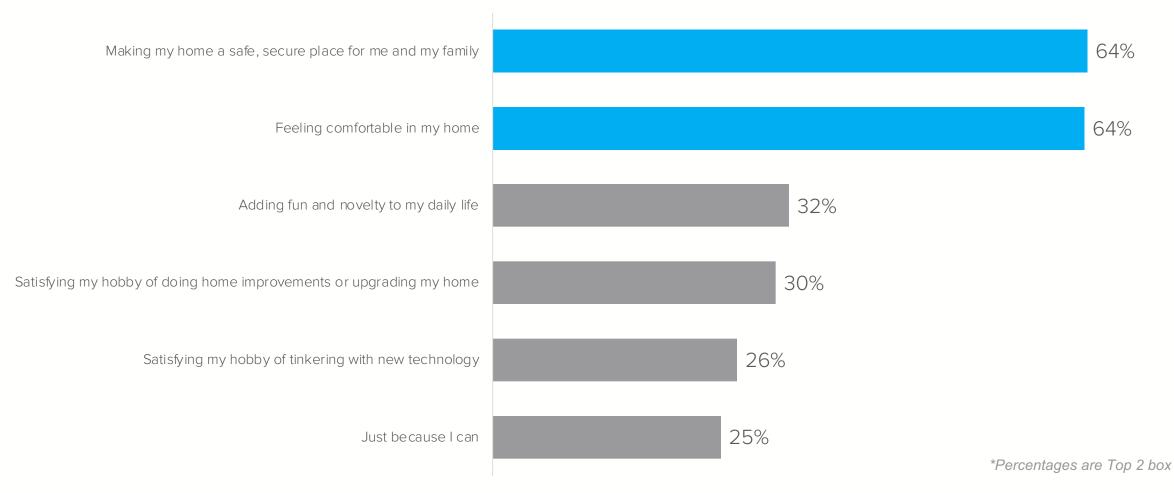




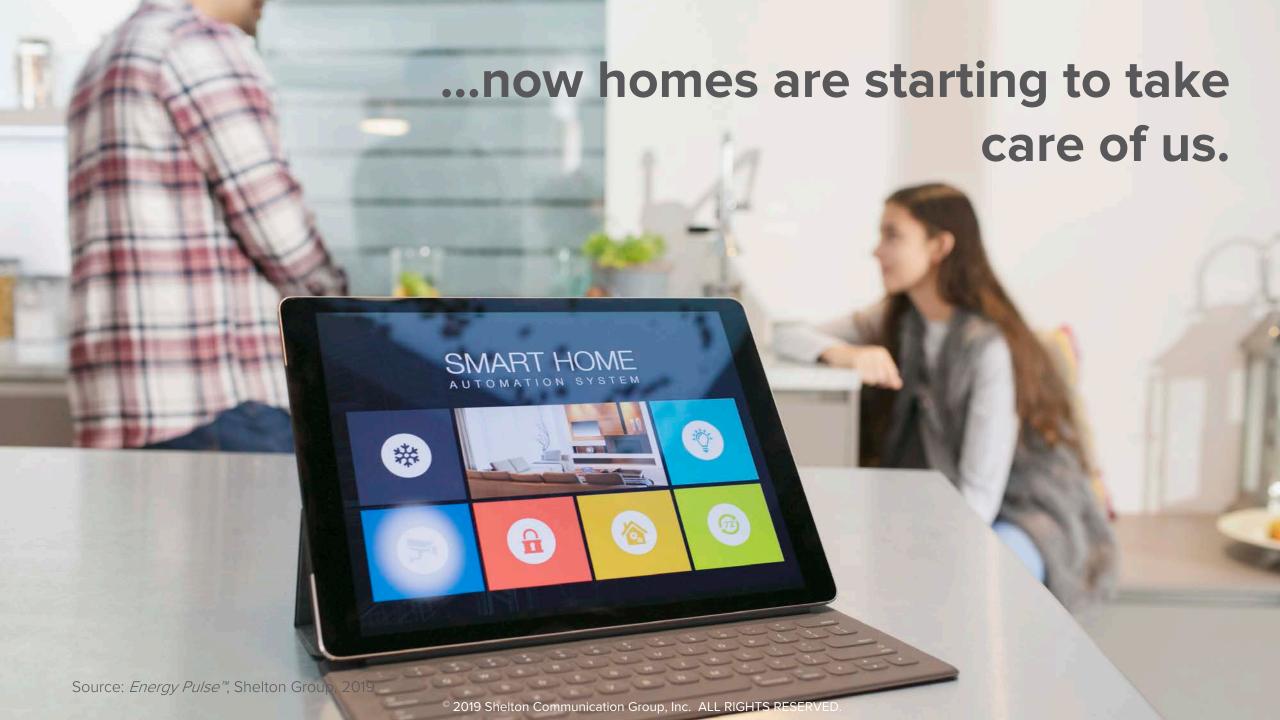
...but it also gives <u>emotional</u> <u>benefits</u> such as

A sense of security, entertainment, peace of mind, etc.











Consumers want a home that will take care of their health but getting there isn't free.

So who is actually willing to pay more right now?



25%

of the population are strong believers in the connection between a home's health and one's personal health.

Let's call them the *Healthy Home Believers*.

Healthy Home Believers are...



Younger, primarily Millennials and Gen Z

Predominantly
Caucasian, but
significantly more likely
to be African-American
or Hispanic

Significantly more likely than Gen Pop to be concerned about the indoor air quality of their home

Significantly more likely than Gen Pop to believe their house has a **strong impact on their health**

Primarily living in suburban areas, but significantly more likely to live in urban areas

Education and income are representative of the overall population

Significantly more likely than Gen Pop to believe a truly healthy home has to be newly built

Homeowners

Significantly more likely to have kids in the home, especially ages

12 and younger

MANATORINATION



They believe even more strongly than the general population that energy-efficiency leads to health



of Believers agree that an energy-efficient home is a healthy home

(remember it was 71% overall)

So they have a bias for action



92%

of Believers say it is important to upgrade their air ventilation system

69%

of Believers routinely have their homes checked for issues such as air quality, moisture, contaminants, and pests



And they're willing to invest in meeting healthy home standards now



870/0

of Believers believe "upgrading my home systems to meet healthy home standards is a smart investment right now"



94%

of Believers would be likely to pay slightly more for a home that has healthy indoor air quality 91%

of Believers would be likely to pay slightly more for a home that has higher energy efficiency ratings

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And almost a third of them are in the market for a new home

32%

are likely to build or purchase a newly built (not previously-owned) home in the next two years

These Believers are:

- ✓ in the market for a new home
- √ very interested in a healthy home
- ✓ and willing to pay more for it



What's standing in the way of Believers having the healthy home they desire?





of Believers are overwhelmed with the choices

26%

of Believers don't know what's best for my home or the way I live

The same pattern holds true for the barriers to adopting more smart technology





25%

of Believers are **overwhelmed** with the choices

25%

of Believers don't know what technology is best for my home or the way I live



Remember, Believers already want these products in their homes.

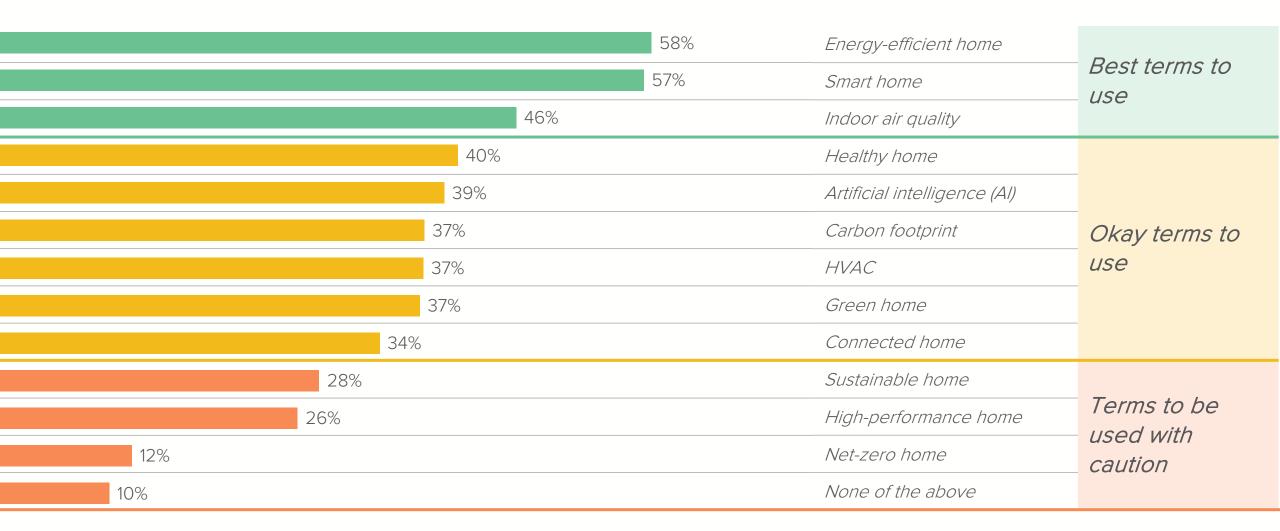
Effective messaging in this case needs to address and alleviate the barriers and concerns they have.

Here is some vocabulary to help you market and message to these Healthy Home Believers



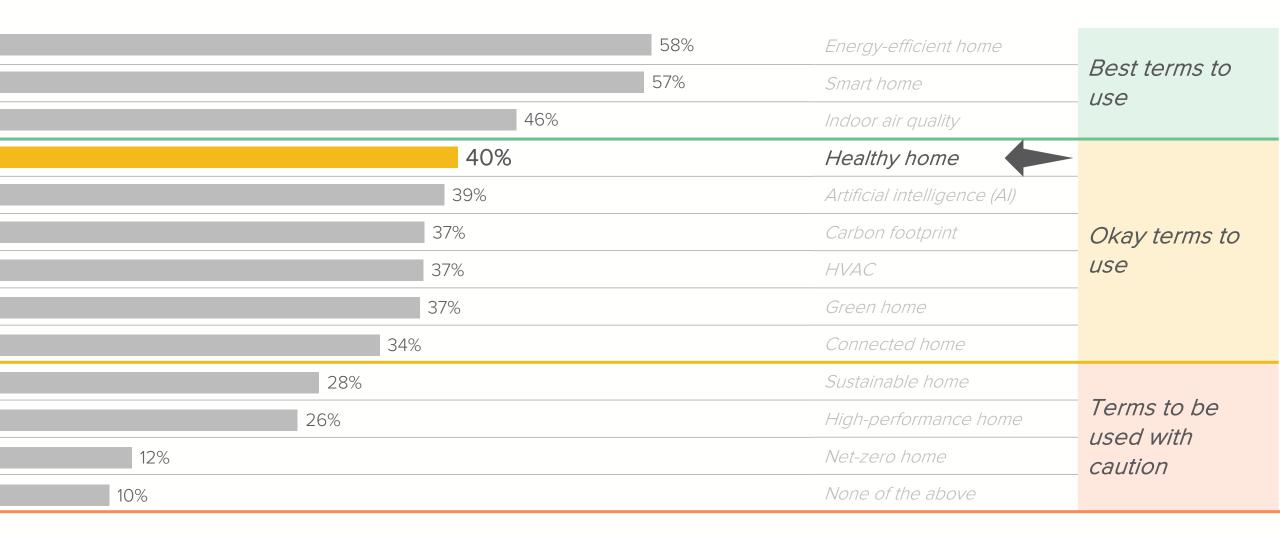
Believers are more familiar with some terms over others—it's best to avoid using terms that may lead to confusion





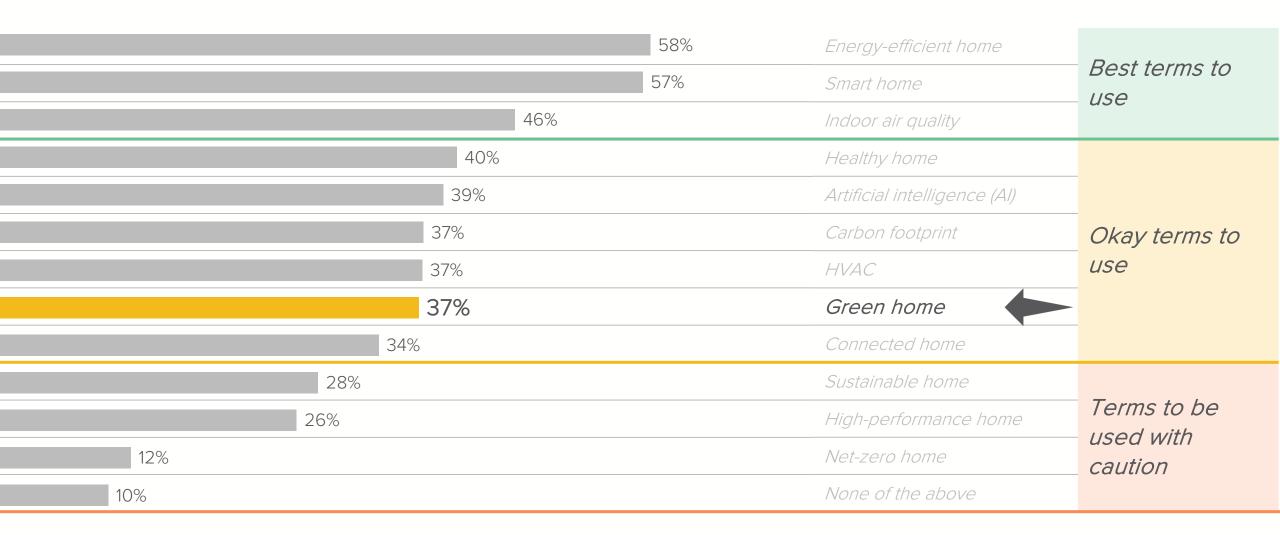
Believers are almost twice as likely as all others to feel comfortable using the term "healthy home"





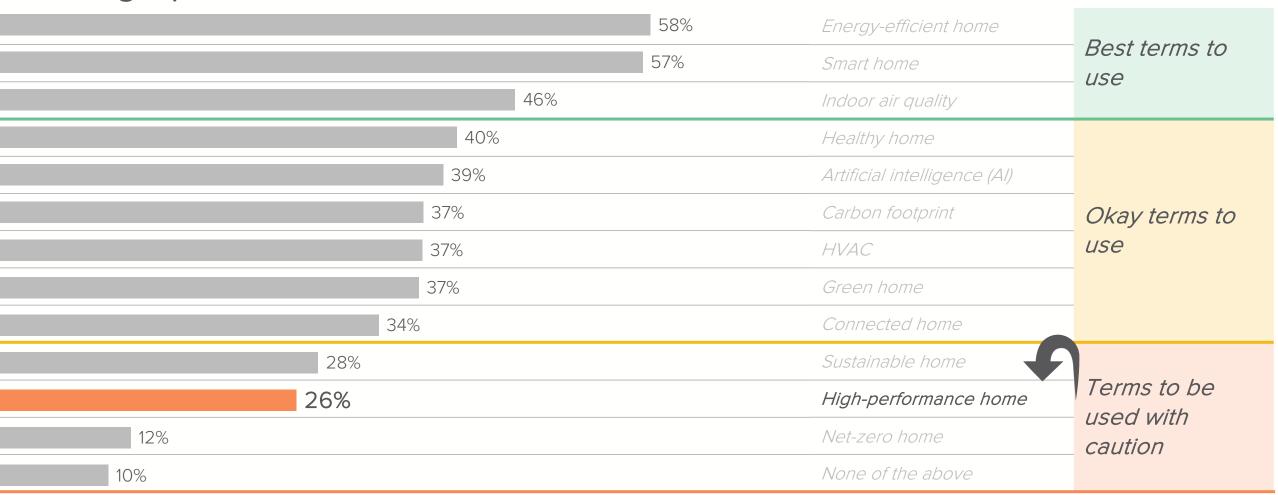
Believers are significantly more likely than all others to feel comfortable using the term "green home"







Even though it's lower overall, Believers are almost 3 times as likely than all others to feel comfortable using the term "high-performance home"





In order to move consumers from desire to action on healthier, higherperforming homes, you need to overcome the barriers and use the right words.

How do you take this step?



A couple of quick examples

3 pathways: Control/quality; comfort; health/peace of mind





97







Choose CertainTeed



Insulation



SMARTBATT™ Insulation helps protect your home & family.





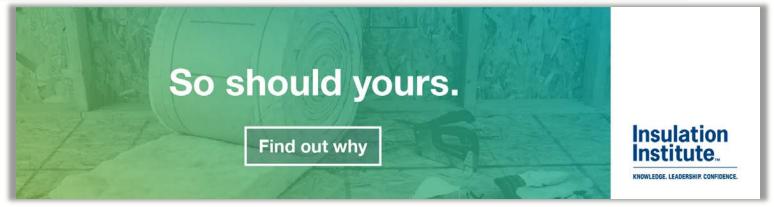


Gain a sustainable advantage.











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- Safe.
- ☑ Proven.

Safe and proven

for more than 75 years. It's safe, it's proven, it's a smart choice.

Tell me more

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Familiar ingredients – non-petrochemical.

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Fiberglass insulation. A smart choice.

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Gain a sustainable advantage.















ENERGY WASTE

Lower energy bills are within your reach. Start making easy, small changes today.

> For more energy-saving tips and solutions, visit KnowYourOptions.com







ARE WITHIN REACH



mold, and improve air flow



DOUBLE-PANE WINDOWS



FOUNDATION RETROFIT

Healthy home. Healthy family.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

HEALTH



VAPOR RETARDER

INSULATION

SEALING

Energy efficiency updates.

Your home can be updated in big an small ways, a little at a time or all at



to get your questions answered tho to talk to.

our real estate professional property's recent utility bills, and energy efficiency upgrades, and It Home Energy Scores.

our lender about bundling fficiency upgrades into your e at purchase or into your ing plans.

contractor about your riorities.

WHAT TO ASK ABOUT

Asking about these topics can save you money.



HomeStyle" Energy Mortgage Loan for home purchases or refinancing



Energy efficiency tax credits, rebates, savings and financing options available



Free energy assessments, rebates and money-saving solutions from your local utility



Other ways to finance energy-efficiency updates like low-interest-rate credit cards, personal loans and appliance manufacturer financing

hether Fannie Mae's HomeStyle Energy Mortgage is right for you? ptions.com to learn about this and other mortgage and refinancing options.



The HomeStyle® Energy Mortgage makes it possible to add energy efficiency features that make your family's home a healthy place to live. Bundling energy efficiency update costs into your mortgage creates one convenient and affordable solution that you can take advantage of at time of purchase or refinance.

Ask your lender about your options today.



An educational initiative developed by the National Association of REALTORS* and the National Association of Home Builders

HOME PERFORMANCE MATTERS

R ASSOCIATION of REALTORS





The demand for green homes has grown rapidly in recent years, and it shows no signs of slowing down.

Why? Because homebuyers today are looking for healthier, more efficient homes.

81%

of people who expect to buy a new home in the next two years say higher energy efficiency would cause them to choose one new home over another.

33%

of single-family home builders currently build most of their homes green, and the number of homes certified to the National Green Building Standard has increased by more than 57% in just the past two years.

61%

of REALTORS® report that their clients are at least somewhat interested in sustainability.

How to Succeed

Selling green homes means building i features, knowing how to promote the right relationships.

- Develop and use your profes have the technical knowledge green homes buyers seek - th estate agents have their ear to what homebuyers want. Toge buyers with the knowledge th performance home is right for
- Stand out from the crowd. No numerous education program learn the latest green building can even earn a green designal from the competition.
- Stay educated. Green buildin benefits - continue to evolve. trends and sustainability rese NAHB, and the Home Perform
- 4 Use the curb appeal you can certifications for the homes you recognized and valued by home distinction within your local in
- Leverage your assets. If your data fields, work together to m and value. No green fields yet? to implement RESO standard

Home Performance Matters



RATIONAL ASSOCIATION of REALTORS*

You Need to Know ...

of people expecting to buy a new home within two years say higher energy efficiency would influence them to choose one new home over another

All across the country, homebuyers are shopping for healthier, more efficient homes. Green homes. High-performance homes. Builders with an eye on the future and RBALTORS99 focused on success are learning what high-performing features people look for in a new home. They're working together to develop homes that integrate those features, and they're working together to better market and sell those homes.

Are you? Learn more at HomePerformanceMatters.info











To Recap

- Health is how you sell better homes for what they're worth
- > Simplify the options available (better, bake them in)
- **?** Communicate the benefits:
 - Health, safety and comfort
 - Alleviating hassle
 - **Peace of mind**
- Use terms they understand
- **Provide clear recommendations for their needs**



Discussion



Thank you!

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Thank you!

Join the conversation - #EEBASummit2019

Save the dates for next year:



