The Program’s construction activities will comply with Green Building Standards as described in Federal Register (FR) 5989-N-01. The State of Louisiana has adopted the ENERGY STAR Certified Home standard for projects that were substantially damaged or where reconstruction is required. Homes that were non-substantially damaged must apply the HUD CPD Green Building Retrofit Checklist to all work undertaken as a part of the program.

For construction projects completed, under construction, or under contract prior to the date that assistance is approved for the project, adherence to the applicable standards to the extent feasible is encouraged, but not required. The Program will include in its construction estimates the necessary materials, products, and labor needed to meet Program-required Green Building Standards. The Program will ensure that work performed by a Solution 1 contractor after the date of the damage assessment complies with the Program’s Green Building Standards where applicable.

Adherence to the applicable Green Building Standards will be verified at each construction progress inspection. Should an applicant or an applicant’s contractor fail to comply with the applicable Green Building Standards, the work is not eligible for payment under the program. The applicant will be instructed by the Program as to whether the Green Building Retrofit Checklist (rehabilitation) or ENERGY STAR guidelines (reconstruction) will be required for construction activities. The applicant is required to incorporate either of these energy efficient items within their construction project. The Estimated Cost of Repair (ECR) report lists approved line items of scope to comply with the Green Building Standards.

- Solution 1 reconstruction plans and specifications will be compliant with the ENERGY STAR requirements.
- Solution 2 reconstruction plans and specifications used by an applicant must also meet ENERGY STAR requirements and the cost of these measures has been included in the pre-determined Program cap for reconstruction cost per square foot.

If during final inspection it is determined that non-energy efficient materials were used in place of prescribed energy efficient line items, the Program will deduct the entire value of the prescribed energy efficient line items from an applicant’s final grant award. Thus, applicants will not receive funding for any non-energy efficient materials as observed during final inspection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

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HOW CAN GREEN BUILDING HELP YOU?

SAVES YOU MONEY

- Upfront investment in green building makes properties more valuable, with an average expected increase in value of 4 percent. Green retrofit projects are generally expected to pay for themselves in just seven years.

- Green buildings reduce day-to-day costs year-over-year. In addition to reducing utility bills, an energy-efficient home may save some costs during construction and will ultimately provide you with a more comfortable home.

KEEPS YOU HEALTHY

- The EPA estimates that indoor air pollution may be 2 to 5 times worse, and sometimes more than 100 times worse, than outdoor air quality.

- Green buildings incorporate healthy ventilation systems and use of non-toxic building materials.

HELPS THE ENVIRONMENT

- Buildings are positioned to have an enormous impact on the environment and climate change. At 41 percent of total U.S. energy consumption, buildings out-consume the industrial (30 percent) and transportation (29 percent) sectors.

- Retrofitting one out of every 100 American homes with water-efficient fixtures could avoid about 80,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the equivalent of removing 15,000 cars from the road for one year.