

Preston ReCRAFT 90 – A Resource Efficient Demonstration Home

ReCRAFT 90 is a demonstration project of the Center for Resourceful Building Technology (CRBT). Located in Missoula, Montana, and completed in the spring of 1992, ReCRAFT 90 demonstrates new products and systems that exemplify an efficient use of resources in their manufacture. CRBT's definition of resource efficient includes building materials and designs that offer an efficient use of primary resources, the use of recycled and secondary resources, energy savings in product manufacture, alternatives to dimensional lumber, and durability over the life of the house. While concentrating on resource efficiency, CRBT considered a wide range of criteria, including cost, availability, sustainability of the resource base, toxicity, energy efficiency, water conservation, durability, maintenance, recycled content, and recyclability. The energy required to build the average house often exceeds the operating energy of that house during its life span. For a house to be truly efficient, the energy expended in the extraction, refinement, and transportation of construction materials to the building site, and the total resources used during construction should be included in the calculation of the structure's efficiency. These factors were all accounted for in the materials selection for ReCRAFT 90. ReCRAFT 90 has educated people involved with the building industry about the importance of innovative building materials and technologies that place less stress on regional and global ecosystems.

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