



RESILIENT BUILDING CHECKLIST

a Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization (SNO) Program

The Resilient Building Checklist is designed to guide sustainable, resilient, high-performance building in Big Sky. It strives to advance energy and water efficiency, reduces waste and carbon emissions, and supports long-term community value through flexible, impactful best practices.

The checklist is a program of Build Better Big Sky, an initiative of the Big Sky Sustainability Network (SNO), and is intended as a reference tool for the Big Sky building community. Projects seeking recognition as a Recognized Resilient Building through Big Sky SNO must complete this checklist and meet all program requirements outlined in the Submission Information section of the appendix.

Visit [BuildBetterBigSky.com](https://www.buildbetterbigsky.com) for educational resources, available incentives, and lists of local contractors.

The Resilient Building Checklist was developed in partnership with Kath Williams & Associates, bringing technical expertise and national best practices together with Big Sky's local priorities.

The Resilient Building Checklist includes nine criteria sections:

1. Community Sustainability Action
2. Integrative Process
3. Materials & Resources
4. Exterior Envelope
5. HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)
6. Electrical
7. Plumbing
8. Landscaping
9. Innovation

1. COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ACTION

Sustainability Actions reflect a commitment to collaboration, transparency, and community benefit. By engaging early with SNO, supporting local partners, and contributing to shared learning, projects help advance resilience beyond the building site.

- Meet with SNO prior to breaking ground to connect to resilient building resources
- Partner with SNO to document project learnings through a case study and related materials. Sign a release permitting SNO to share their story to help inspire and inform the broader Big Sky community.
- Regional economic support through prioritizing regional contractors, trades, and suppliers when feasible.
- Commitment to engaging with local sustainability programs - e.g. Sustainable Business Achievement, promoting One Less Car to employees/construction teams, volunteer hours with Grow Wild or the Gallatin River Task Force for cleanups, etc.
- Bonus Points: Project includes an additional community-focused sustainability action not otherwise captured in this section.

2. INTEGRATIVE PROCESS

Foster high-performance, cost-effective, and cross-functional outcomes by engaging in early, collaborative planning that addresses decarbonization, quality of life, and ecosystem conservation through a holistic understanding of system interrelationships.

- Site Evaluation
- Integrated Design Process
- Energy and Renewable Evaluation
- Early Wildfire Adapted Evaluation
- Early Water Evaluation (Availability and Consumption)
- Bonus Points: Implement an additional integrative planning action not otherwise captured in this section.

3. MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Minimize the environmental and social impacts of building materials by promoting sustainable sourcing, responsible manufacturing, reduced transportation impacts, and circular life-cycle practices that conserve resources and support a responsible economy.

- Low Embodied Carbon Materials
- Non-Toxics and Healthy Interiors
- Locally/domestically sourced and reclaimed materials
- Bonus Points: Implement an additional materials-related strategy not otherwise captured in this section.

4. EXTERIOR ENVELOPE

Design a high-performing, durable building enclosure that minimizes energy demand, enhances indoor air quality, and supports long-term sustainability through improved insulation, air sealing, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

- High Performance Insulation
- Smart Building Orientation
- Efficient Air Sealing
- Efficient Windows and Doors
- Fire Resistant Roofing and Gutter Guards
- Fire Resistant Siding
- Ember Screening for Vents on Exterior
- Bonus Points: Achieve a ≤ 1.5 ACH50.

5. HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)

Reduce energy consumption and emissions from heating, ventilation, and cooling systems while improving indoor air quality, occupant comfort, and overall building performance.

- Efficient Heating and Cooling
- Heat Recovery Ventilation (HVR/ERV)
- Smart Controls
- Bonus Points: Project includes an additional sustainable HVAC action not otherwise captured in this section

6. ELECTRICAL

Improve overall building energy performance and reliability while reducing air, water, and land pollution associated with energy generation and consumption.

- LED Lighting
- Smart Controls
- Solar Ready Design
- Onsite Solar and Battery
- Electric Ready Infrastructure, Electric Appliances, and/or Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Bonus Points: EV charger, heat pump water heater, induction stove, or other electric appliances successfully installed.

7. PLUMBING

Conserve potable water and ensure responsible management of wastewater, greywater, and runoff through efficient, integrated systems that minimize consumption, promote reuse, and safeguard local water resources.

- Low Flow Fixtures
- Water Meters
- Greywater System
- Bonus Points: Provide purple pipe or equivalent infrastructure to enable future greywater connection.

8. LANDSCAPING

Design landscapes that conserve water, enhance biodiversity, and minimize fire risk by prioritizing native and non-invasive plantings, limiting chemical use, and eliminating reliance on potable water for irrigation.

- 5-Foot Ember Resistant Zone
- Defensible, Native Landscaping
- Drought Tolerant Landscaping
- Efficient Irrigation
- Permeable surfaces
- Bonus Points: Meet with and/or book a site visit with Alpenscapes partner(s).

9. INNOVATION

Encourage innovative strategies and pilot practices that go beyond established measures - advancing sustainability, resilience, collaboration, and positive outcomes for human and environmental health.

- Measured Performance Verification
- Pilot or Demonstration Use of Technology
- Achieving certifications (LEED, TRUE, WELL, PEER)

Appendix: Submission Information

Being a Recognized Resilient Building

The Recognized Resilient Building designation celebrates projects that demonstrate leadership in energy efficiency, resource conservation, and long-term resilience in Big Sky.

Big Sky SNO will review submitted applications and work alongside project teams throughout the review process. This collaborative approach helps ensure the checklist is applied consistently, supports shared learning, and strengthens outcomes across the community.

Once a project is recognized, Big Sky SNO will share the achievement with the broader community through program communications, case studies, and related outreach. Recognized projects help set a local standard for resilient, high-performance building and contribute to a growing body of examples that inspire future projects in Big Sky.

How to Complete the Checklist

1. Review each Sustainability Action listed in the checklist.
2. Complete the Resilient Building Spreadsheet, including notes describing how each action was addressed.
3. Partial (half) points may be awarded. Refer to the criteria notes within the spreadsheet for details on scoring expectations for each action.
4. The Resilient Building Checklist has a base maximum score of 80 points, with up to 16 additional Bonus Points available for projects that go beyond baseline requirements. These Bonus Points reward creative, high-performance, or site-specific strategies. A minimum score of 75% (including eligible bonus points) is required to achieve Resilient Building recognition.

Retrofit Projects

This Resilient Building Checklist may be used for both new construction and renovation projects. For renovations or small projects, complete only the sections and line items that are relevant to your specific scope of work.

Your score should be calculated based solely on the applicable portions of the checklist. Add together the total possible points within those relevant sections and divide the points earned by that total to determine your final percentage. A minimum score of 75% is required for both new construction and renovation projects to achieve Resilient Building recognition.

For example, if you are completing a bathroom remodel, focus on the Plumbing, Electrical (lighting), and Materials sections. Count only the line items that apply to your project — such as low-flow fixtures, LED lighting, and low-VOC materials — and calculate your score based on the total possible points within those applicable sections.

Climate Zone Requirements

Although Big Sky is technically classified as IECC Climate Zone 6, all projects using this checklist must be designed to meet or exceed IECC Climate Zone 7 standards to reflect Big Sky’s alpine elevation, extended heating season, and extreme winter conditions.

The Resilient Building Spreadsheet with additional criteria and requirements can be found at www.buildbetterbigsky.com/rbc

Scoring

Section	Points Available
Community Sustainability Action	8
Integrative Process	12
Materials & Resources	6
Exterior Envelope	14
HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning)	8
Electrical	10
Plumbing	6
Landscaping	10
Innovation	6
Total Available Points	80
Total Available Bonus Points	16

Write-In Actions

Each section includes space to list additional actions that meet the intent of the program. Provide a short description and any documentation that supports your entry.

Supporting Documentation

Attach evidence such as photos, policies, reports, or receipts to verify your completed actions. Combine materials into a single file if possible.

Submission

Sign and date your checklist, then submit it with supporting materials to the SNO Review Committee at Lizzie Peyton, hello@bigskysno.org, 406-898-8914.

Committee

Applications are reviewed within one month of receipt. Incomplete applications will not be considered until all prerequisites are met.

Questions

For questions or clarification, contact at Lizzie Peyton, hello@bigskysno.org, 406-898-8914.

Disclaimer

Submitting an application does not guarantee certification or award. The SNO Review Committee may verify information, request clarification, or adjust points to ensure consistency. Submitted materials will not be returned.

Prerequisites of the Big Sky SNO Resilient Building Program Eligibility

Ensure applicants understand the program's intent, goals, and expectations, demonstrate a commitment to the principles of resilience and sustainability, and show readiness to actively and responsibly participate in this voluntary program. Please mark the check box when completed. Applications that have not completed all prerequisites will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed until all required prerequisites are met.