

Eco design advisor

The purpose of this document is to provide information on the eco design advisor service.

What is eco design advisor?

Eco design advisor is a free face-to-face service on sustainable building for anyone involved in housing, including home renovators, building professionals and the public generally throughout the Auckland Council area.

The eco design advisors are advocates for healthier buildings, better use of energy, water, and materials, minimising waste and reducing environmental damage from building projects. They can come to your home, your building site, the architect's office, or you can see them at the council's Graham St service centre. The advisors also talk about eco design principles at community centres, night classes, schools and universities, conferences and seminars.

These advisors have access to a large support network of specialists, design tools, assessment methods and material information nationwide, backed by BRANZ, the independent building research association. The advisors are qualified Homestar© assessors and can provide a certified rating on the environmental attributes of your home, which will help verify the features to a potential buyer.

The benefits of having a more eco-friendly home include:

- improving your family's health
- saving money on energy and water bills
- living more comfortably
- reducing the impact on the environment
- increasing the resale value of your house.

What issues can they provide advice on?

Your local eco design advisor is able to provide you with independent, factual and practical building information on:

- reducing your energy bill
- reducing your water use
- improving water and waste management
- selecting eco-friendly building materials
- improving indoor air quality.

What are the benefits of the eco design advisor service?

- Delivers positive and proactive advice to applicants before they lodge building consents, reducing administrative delays and compliance costs during the consenting process.
- Higher standards of design, construction and fit-out of new buildings and extensions to houses as well as reduced use of natural resources.
- Improved energy and water efficiency of all houses through better insulation, more efficient space and water heating, as well as energy and water efficient appliances, tap fittings and plumbing systems.
- Better quality of life for current and future residents of the building and city.
- Promotes the principles and practice of ecologically sustainable design.

How do I use the eco design advisor service?

Simply ring council on 0508 ECO DESIGN (0508 326 337) or visit your local council service centre to book an appointment with an eco design advisor. You may also visit the council website at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and click on the 'Building, property and consents' heading. The earlier you meet up with the Eco design advisor, the more opportunities you will have in realising the potential of your project.

You may also visit www.ecodesignadvisor.org.nz for further information.

Check out the following web sites for some great resources:

www.smarterhomes.org.nz

www.branz.co.nz

www.eeca.govt.nz

www.level.org.nz

www.sustainableliving.org.nz