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The State (Columbia, South Carolina)

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BUILDING 'GREEN'

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U.S. Green Building Council: Residential builders can learn about green construction by attending workshops offered by the council, which certifies commercial buildings with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system.

The council introduced a rating system last week for residential properties.

It also has an education Web site, greenbuild365.org.

Independent groups: Builders can learn construction guidelines, certification programs and interactive educational software through the National Association of Home Builders, National Association of the Remodeling Industry and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Online searches: Home buyers have resources available through specialized brokers and multiple listing services like EcoBrokers, which provides a certification program for real estate professionals. There are 817 designated EcoBrokers in 42 states.

Home buyers can search for properties with green attributes like formaldehyde-free insulation, salvaged-wood flooring or native vegetation at ecobroker.com, as well as on other sites like listedgreen.com.

MODEL HOME

A new home being planned in Charleston is meant to be a model for the nation on how to build durable, more energy-efficient homes. The home is being built for the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing. HUD is part of the initiative.

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