



International Copper Association  
Copper Alliance

# Copper: The Common Thread to Green Buildings

## Why do Buildings Matter?

Buildings are currently responsible for one-third of global energy consumption, and energy use in buildings represents as much as 80 percent of total energy use in certain regions. Add to this the fact that people in the developed world spend 90 percent of their time inside, and it becomes abundantly clear that *substantially greener, smarter and healthier buildings are needed to unlock a sustainable and decarbonised future.*

## What's a Green Building?

There is no one definition of what constitutes a green building, but overall, a "green" building is one that—in its design, construction and operation—reduces or eliminates negative impacts on our climate and environment, or even has a positive impact.

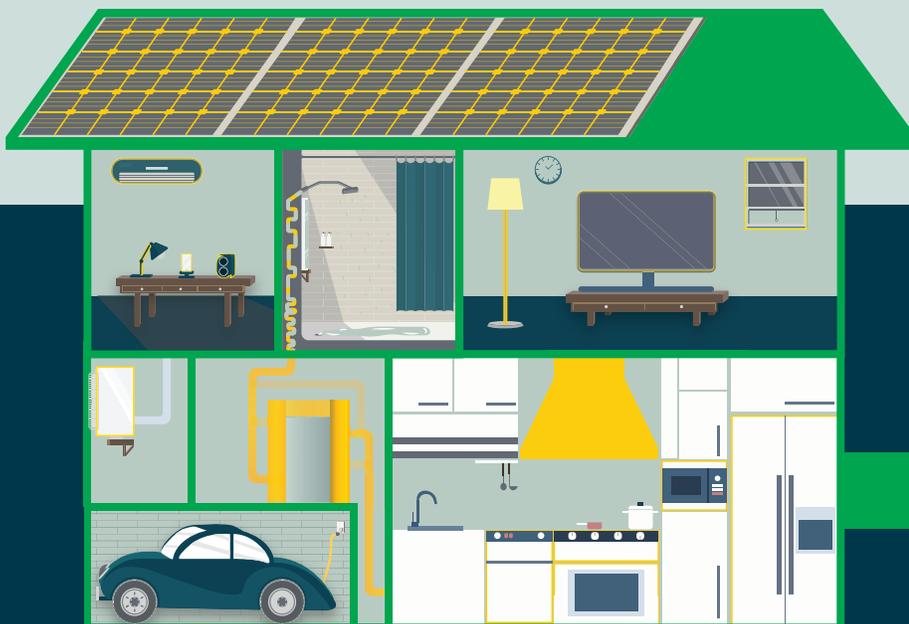
Three of the main green and healthy building standards currently influencing the building construction market are LEED, ASHRAE 189.1 and WELL. These set performance measures for wide-ranging aspects of a building, from its envelope to the wiring, plumbing and technical building systems, to its use of renewable energy systems. Environmental performance data for the products and materials used throughout is also covered. Typically, the greener and healthier a building, the more copper it will contain as copper is a key component in many applications driving environmental and energy performance.

## About the Copper Alliance®

The Copper Alliance® is a network of regional copper centers and their industry-leading members. It is responsible for guiding policy and strategy and for funding international initiatives and promotional activities. Headquartered in New York, the organization has offices in four primary regions: Europe and Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America. Copper Alliance programs and initiatives are executed in more than 60 countries through its regional offices and country-level copper promotion centers.

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**Copper is the common thread to making our building stock greener and meeting these standards.**



## EVERYDAY USAGE OF



DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE  
MORE THAN 100 COPPER  
APPLICATIONS IN BUILDINGS?

**YELLOW = HOUSING ELEMENTS  
CONTAINING COPPER**