

green



While it sometimes seems that every business on the planet has added “eco-friendly” to its credentials, smart homeowners should look beyond the label to make sure there’s expertise—and a track record—to back it up. Greater Boston’s most environmentally conscious firms didn’t add “green” as an afterthought: They began with a philosophy, and have remained true to it.

architect

**MARYANN
THOMPSON
ARCHITECTS**

A longtime pioneer in sustainable architecture, Maryann Thompson has been turning passive lately—which impresses us even more. She’s getting certified in Passive Housing, a German movement that strives to slash homes’ energy usage by 90 percent. Given that its common-sense principles mesh well with Thompson’s dedication to simple green solutions, we expect to see beautifully designed, incredibly energy-efficient homes popping up all over the Hub in the coming years.

14 HILLSIDE AVE., CAMBRIDGE, 617-491-4144,
MARYANNTHOMPSON.COM

consultant

NEXAMP

It won’t cost you a penny to have Nexamp cofounder Dan Leary or one of his team come out to your home to assess the cost of installing a wind turbine generator, solar panels, or a geothermal pump. But don’t expect a standard sales pitch. Leary believes knowledge is power, and so he uses the company’s proprietary Web-based “Road Map” program to educate potential clients about the value of renewable technologies. And should you make the decision to go green, Nexamp will design and install your system of choice, then continue monitoring your energy consumption in real time through its high-tech IT platform.

21 HIGH ST., STE. 209, NORTH ANDOVER,
978-688-2700, NEXAMP.COM

contractor

**BOSTON GREEN
BUILDING**

In this greenwashed age, lots of contractors say they’re environmentally conscious. But it takes a tremendous amount of time and education to transform a standard builder into a true

green leader. Brian Butler has done just that, fully committing his company to the eco-friendly cause and ensuring that all his employees are fluent in the latest innovations. The result: In only a few years, BGB has upgraded dozens of homes with Energy Star PVC-free windows, bamboo kitchen cabinets, recycled flooring, and photovoltaic panels. Even better, BGB offers a range of alternatives to conventional construction tactics, and practices “open billing,” which means clients get to see the base labor and material costs along with the final markup.

218 LINCOLN ST., ALLSTON, 617-202-3777,
BOSTONGREENBUILDING.COM

geothermal

**EAST COAST
GEOTHERMAL**

Until recently, getting a geothermal heating and cooling system meant tracking down an engineer, a site planner, and a well driller—and then trying to get all of them to speak the same language. Frustrated by the lack of turnkey solutions for installing a geothermal system in his own home, Philip Wheeler joined forces with two engineering colleagues to form ECG. The two-year-old Clinton company handles the entire process, from consulting and drawing up systems to installing and maintaining equipment. As a bonus, ECG helps customers and their accountants navigate the piles of paperwork needed to get federal and state tax credits for energy-saving home improvements.

464 HIGH ST., CLINTON, 978-368-4091,
EASTCOASTGEOTHERMAL.COM

resource center

NEXUS

For the latest information on sustainable building, look no further than the 10,000-square-foot Nexus Green Building Resource Center. Set up by the Green Roundtable, a Boston nonprofit that aims to make eco-friendly design

Maryann Thompson Architects designed this geothermal residence in Boston to take full advantage of the sun's rays.