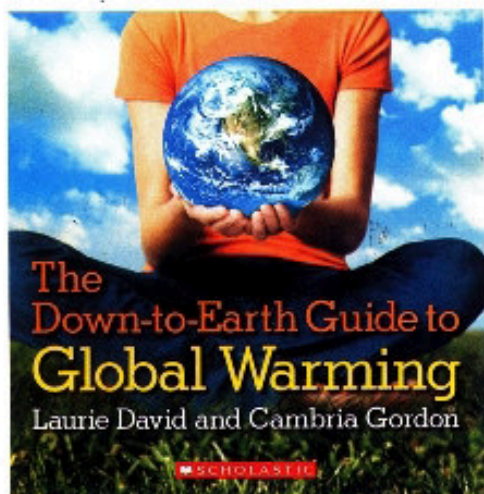


MET TONES

• **[KIDS GET COOL]**
Helping to mobilize the next generation, *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming* (Scholastic, \$16 for paperback)—by Laurie David (she of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*) and Cambria Gordon—brings knotty matters down to manageable scope for youngsters age 8 and up. True to its do-as-I-do message, the illustrated book is printed on 100 percent post-consumer waste paper using soy ink.
—Michael Lassell



HOME ECONOMICS • [LEED CERTIFICATION]

If you want the greenest house on the block, remember this: Where you LEED, green will follow. In 1998, the nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council introduced its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, the first measurable, verifiable system of green standards for commercial buildings.

This fall, the LEED for Homes program gets personal, awarding new residences points for sustainability features in such areas as site use, design innovation, water and energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality. Structures are given a certified, silver, gold or platinum (the highest) rating depending on how green they go.

LEED certification is no idle boast. It has become the equivalent of the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for environmentally sustainable construction and has spawned similar programs. In fact, the National Association of Homebuilders recently reported that nearly 100,000 homes have been built and certified by voluntary, builder-supported green-building programs. But while there are now

more than 70 local and regional green-building organizations in the United States, only LEED, which supports those programs, requires documentation and third-party verification.

The process of building one of your own begins with locating a certified regional LEED for Homes Provider (there are 12 nationwide; visit USGBC.org/leed to find one), who works with the builder and/or architect to incorporate green features during the planning stages, then monitors the project to ensure that green elements are installed correctly and homeowners know how to use and maintain them.

While LEED currently has no program for additions or remodels (unless a renovation involves gutting the house), homeowners who don't qualify for certification can borrow ideas from its website, which offers tips on



greening your home, such as using compact fluorescent bulbs and switching to green power.

Although LEED certification carries status and the satisfaction of doing the right thing, with green tax credits for residences being passed in several states such as New Mexico, it could literally be money in the bank. —James Badham

HOME OFFICE

• **[KNOLL DESK]**
For his new collection of tables and desks for Knoll, Ross Lovegrove turned traditional bent steel tubing into an exciting new form. Not only do the colors dazzle, the tops come in marvelous materials—honeycomb Panelite, bamboo, Corian, marble or glass—as well as a range of colors (from \$1,900; Knoll.com). —AH



BOTTLES AMERICANS USE EACH YEAR. . . .  THE UNITED STATES IS

