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# Green resource to rebuild after flood

**B**UILDING on knowledge gained from assisting disaster-affected communities in the United States, environmental organisation Green Cross Australia will host a state version of the Build it Back Green website to help Victorians rebuild sustainably after natural disasters.

Developed using a Victorian Government Sustainability Fund grant, the comprehensive Build it Back Green website offers information on sustainable building products, services and rebates to rebuild and retrofit homes and community facilities.

"Green Cross had Build it Back Green up and running soon after Hurricane Katrina passed through New Orleans and the tornado ripped through Kansas," Green Cross

Australia chief executive Mara Bún says.

"These areas showed that economic, environmental and community benefits, such as lower energy bills, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and improved adaptability, can be gained through sustainable rebuilding."

The Aussie version of Build it Back Green contains resources specifically for bushfire-affected communities, but information for flood-impacted communities will be added soon.

Green Building Council of Australia's chief executive Romilly Madew notes that "communities across the country are struggling to rebuild following disasters".

"While rebuilding green does require a long-term view, it can support community resilience, create green jobs, save

greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy bills and help future proof our nation against the forces of nature," she says.

Alternative Technology Association chief executive Ian Porter says the website proves there are many environmentally friendly ways in which communities can rebuild after natural disasters.

"This initiative - it's rich with information and is a great tool for people to improve their homes and live sustainably," Porter says.

The website building guide looks at finance, green home loans, rebates, design tips and building material, power supply and water use advice.

Visit: <http://builditback-green.org/bushfires.aspx>  
[greencrossaustralia.org](http://greencrossaustralia.org)

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