SUSTAINABILITY and HISTORIC RESOURCES:

past + present + future

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION®
THE NATIONAL TRUST’S MISSION

“Helping people protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them.”
CONNECTING THE DOTS: sustainability and preservation

Social and Cultural Value

Economic Value

Ecological Dimension
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
on Energy Policy and the Built Environment

• 1970 National Ambient Air Quality and Emissions Standards created
• 1973 Oil crisis
• 1974 President Nixon instructs American to curb energy consumption by turning down the thermostats and limiting vehicular gas consumption
• 1977 Department of Energy is established
• 1977 Alaskan oil pipeline opens
• 1978 President Carter institutes tax on inefficient cars
• 1979 Second oil crisis
• 1980’s Reagan Administration lets energy efficiency requirements pioneered in the 1970’s expire, and encourages Americans to drive cars and shop
WHY BUILDINGS MATTER

65% of electricity consumption

55% of natural gas consumption

39% of total energy consumption

43% of carbon emissions

30% of greenhouse gas emissions

30% of waste (construction and demolition)

30% of raw materials use

12% of potable water consumption

Source: USGBC and Pew Center on Climate Change
THE DISPOSIBILITY OF BUILDINGS

- **300 Billion** square feet of existing building space
- **82 Billion** will be demolished or replaced by 2030

Demolition Projections: 2005-2030

- **Retained** 73%
- **Demolished** 27%

Source: Brookings Institution
To make the case for preservation as inherently sustainable development and crucial to controlling climate change.
SUSTAINABILITY at the National Trust

• Office of Sustainability
  
  Focus on Local, State and Federal Policy: The National Trust for Historic Preservation will work with several cities to develop model policies that encourage preservation as sustainable development.

• Preservation Green Lab
  
  The Green Lab partners with cities and states to become a national clearinghouse for best practices and model policies to encourage municipalities and states around the country to fully consider historic preservation and the existing building stock in formulating their climate change action plans.

• The Weatherization Guide for Older and Historic Buildings
  
  Guidance on improving your building’s energy efficiency.
SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP: 4 principles

1.) **REUSE** existing buildings

2.) **REINVEST** in communities

3.) **RETROFIT** older buildings

4.) **RESPECT** historic integrity
REUSE
existing buildings

Demolishing this...

Negates the benefits of recycling
78,000,000 aluminum cans

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Headquarters Washington, D.C.

Photo: Planet Ark, 2008
REUSE existing buildings

Memorial Hall, Philadelphia, PA
Photo: Don Pearse Photographers, Inc.
REINVEST
in older and historic communities

Brandywine Valley

Photo: USDA-NRCS
Trinity Church, Boston, MA

Philadelphia City Hall
The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards

The Standards are meant to “promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation’s irreplaceable cultural resources.” ~ NPS

Collision Points

1) Windows
2) Insulation
3) Mechanical Systems
4) Roofing
Why windows matter:
1) Quality of materials
2) Custom fit to their openings
3) Performance
4) Repairable
5) Character
TIP: The average person in the United States stays in the same house for between five and seven years. When it takes upwards of 40 years to recoup in energy savings what was spent to replace windows, many owners will never see the "savings" or fully recoup their expenses.
Where Heat Escapes

TIP: Adding insulation in the walls of older and historic buildings is challenging for a number of reasons. Mainly, the process requires the disruption or removal of a great deal of material, and can therefore lead to the destruction of the historic details that make your home special.
**TIP:** Older and historic buildings without modern mechanical systems were designed with human comfort in mind, relying on building features operated by the occupant to keep the environment comfortable. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for upgrading systems. We recommend a more holistic approach – one that is specific to your home or building.
TIP: From the elements to pollution and falling tree limbs, our roofs really take a beating! This is why all roofs eventually fail and need to be replaced. As with any other character-defining aspect of your older or historic home, be sure to that replacement materials and design elements are as close of a fit as possible.
RESPECT
historic integrity

Lincoln Cottage Visitors Education Center
Photo: National Trust for Historic Preservation
WHAT YOU CAN DO

• Tell us about your case studies.
• Keep up with Federal, State and Local policy.
• Participate in state and local planning.
• Talk to an expert before making any dramatic changes to your building.
• Consider your options before spending a lot of money. Weatherization does not have to be expensive.
National Trust Links:

www.preservationnation.org
http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization/
http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/

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