

# Willingness to Pay for Green Building Features in the Medium-Income Residential Market of Makurdi, Nigeria

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**Abstract.** Investigating willingness to pay for green buildings in Nigeria and other developing nations is an urgent need since the world is advocating sustainable development, which the building industry must adopt while attempting to satisfy housing needs that are yet to be met in most developing countries. Recognizing that medium-income earners are victims of housing deficit who can afford housing to a reasonable extent in Nigeria, this paper aimed to investigate medium-income householders' willingness to pay for a green residential building to aid green building investment decisions in Makurdi. Three objectives were put in place to pursue the aim in which the study was approached quantitatively and adopted survey strategy using 300 questionnaires as the instruments for data collection as suitable for contingent valuation technique. Data collected were analyzed using the weighted mean, logistic model and multiple regression. The findings were that Makurdi medium-income earners find green features essential and are willing to pay a 3.3% premium price to purchase residential buildings with green features. Therefore, the paper recommends that the government and private investors strategically consider green residential buildings while creating more awareness of the importance of building green.

**Keywords:** green building; willingness to pay; contingent valuation; medium-income householders; residential market.

## INTRODUCTION

Man's numerous needs that have called for the continuous exploitation of the Earth's natural resource for development over the last decades have negatively impacted the environment, endangering the survival of the Earth and future generations. The visible evidence is the increasingly unfavourable climate changes and natural disasters seen globally [14]. The construction industry has significantly destroyed the natural environment. It has been a significant consumer of non-renewable natural resources; the industry produces substantial waste, pollutes air and water, and accounts significantly for the greenhouse gas emissions affecting climate change [18]. For instance, [10] reported that buildings represent 38.9% of primary energy use, 38% of all carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, and 72% of electricity consumption in developed nations such as the United States. Buildings also use 13.6% of all potable water or 15 trillion gallons per year; additionally, 40% of raw materials used globally are consumed by the building industry (3 billion tons annually) [10]. This report is not far from the re-

ality in Nigeria's context, if not worse, since Nigeria is still a developing country trying to emulate modernization.

Moderate scenarios developed by the United Nations suggested that, if the current population and natural resource consumption trends continue, humanity will, by the year 2030, require the equivalent of two piles of Earth to support it [8]. Recognizing that the planet's resources are not inexhaustible and that there is a need to conserve the Earth's natural resources, the concept of sustainable development became necessary, which gave rise to the idea of green building to guide the building industry. As against conventional buildings, green buildings seek to use land and energy efficiently, conserve water, improve indoor environmental quality and increase the use of recycled and renewable materials and at the same time improve the well-being of the occupants [4].

The building sector in developed countries has embraced building green and has developed and embraced some green building certification schemes. As a result, these countries have wit-

nessed a green building revolution, driving design and construction toward sustainability. However, the concept of building green has not been embraced in most developing nations, such as Nigeria, which has yet to develop or adopt a green building certification scheme [22]. In addition, the upfront cost issue in building green is frequently cited as an obstacle to adopting the concept of building green [23, 26]. However, [11] argued that an ideal green building should not be expensive, should last long with modest maintenance, and return ultimately to the Earth when abandoned. These arguments and the intent to go the noble way of building green while meeting housing demand have motivated the need for this study.

Thus, recognising that over the years housing deficit in Nigeria affects medium and low-income earners, and the debt currently stands at 22 million units, coupled with the increasing need for housing by the aforementioned income groups [1], it is of utmost importance that the government and private developers find an urgent solution to this problem as the importance of housing cannot be overemphasized. With the desire to meet housing needs, coupled with the desire to build green, this paper investigated how willing will medium-income earners be to pay for green building features if provided using the contingent valuation method as also adopted by [22, 27] by creating a hypothetical market and soliciting medium-income householders' opinion on their willingness to pay since there is no evidence of green building in the study area.

The choice of medium-income earners arises as a result of the fact that the national minimum annual income in Nigeria (₦360,000) is far below the yearly household income needed to purchase the cheapest newly built house by a formal developer, which in 2018 stood at ₦3.09M [7] hence, justifying the target market as medium income earners who are likely to make effective demand, rather than low-income earners whose demand may not be effective. This has further shed light on the choice of the study area – Makurdi, as medium-income earners predominantly occupy it, basically civil servants and commercial businessmen [16, 19].

This paper aimed to investigate medium-income earners' willingness to pay for green residential building features to aid green building investment decisions in Makurdi.

The following objectives were pursued:

1. To assess medium-income householders' preference of green residential building features in Makurdi.
2. To estimate the amount medium-income householders will pay for a green residential building in Makurdi.
3. To assess the effect of preference for green building features on the amount householders will pay for a green residential building in Makurdi.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Concept of Green Building

The idea of green building is considered a way for the building industry to achieve sustainable development goals taking into account environmental, socio and economic issues to protect the environment [30]. Green building is a subset of sustainable building concepts used to describe structures built in an environmentally friendly manner by minimizing resources and ensuring the health and well-being of occupants and the environment both today and for future generations [17]. Authors [21] referred to "Green buildings" as structures with a minimum environmental footprint that optimize the utilization of materials, water, energy and other resources and that mitigate the negative impacts of the building on the health and well-being of occupants. These buildings are usually designed to minimize their environmental footprint and, at the same time, improve the well-being of the persons who occupy the buildings. An ideal green building should not be expensive to build, should last long with modest maintenance, but return entirely to the Earth when abandoned [3].

The concept of green building is based on a life cycle perspective during a building's site selection, design, construction and operation, renovation and demolition. The buildings' adverse effect on the natural environment and human health is minimized [32]. The authors [3] outlined four principles of green building: social, economic, biophysical, and technical. The extent of the principles of the green building mirrors those of sustainable development, which is about synergistic relationships between economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability. Three general objectives that should shape the framework for implementing green building design and con-

struction while keeping in mind the sustainability principles have been identified. These objectives are resource conservation, cost efficiency and innovation for human adaptation [3]. As against conventional buildings, green buildings seek to use land and energy efficiently, conserve water, improve indoor environmental quality, and increase recycled and renewable materials [34].

The building industry accounts for a large percentage of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the sector presents opportunities to reduce emissions [34]. A few decades ago, the building sector in developed countries witnessed a green building revolution, driving design and construction toward sustainability. However, green buildings constitute a small subset of existing buildings, increasing gradually [12]. One of the most significant parts of the green building movement was the launch of a series of green building rating systems, guidelines, standards and certifications, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in the United States, Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) in the United Kingdom, Green Building Label (GBL) of China and Green Star in South Africa [34, 23]. These certification bodies define the extent (features) of what can be called a green building which will be reviewed critically in the next session.

Despite the impetus of environmental movement, the green building faces significant challenges that are traced to non-environmentally friendly habits and require a behaviour change [34]. There have been increasing concerns and controversies surrounding the performance of green buildings. Scholars argue this not as a result of the wrong design of the green building, nor tools, nor techniques nor the technology adopted, but due to the reality that facilities do not use materials such as energy and water, but the occupants do [34]. A green building becomes a greenwash if it relies on technological solutions, such as solar panels and thermal insulation, while retaining intensive energy use habits. Good use behaviours can significantly reduce energy and water consumption [13].

Despite the controversy, the benefits of green building cannot be overemphasized. It can be measured environmentally, which involves enhancing and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, improving air and water quality, reducing waste streams and conserving and restoring nat-

ural resources [26]. Also, the benefits can be measured economic which involves, reduction in operating costs, higher effective rental income leading to higher financial return, creating and expanding markets for green products and services, improving occupant productivity and optimizing life-cycle economic performance [23]. In addition, the benefits of green building can also be measured socially. These benefits can be seen as enhancing occupant comfort and health, aesthetic qualities, minimizing strain on local infrastructure, and improving the overall quality of life [26, 23]. Despite the numerous benefits associated with green buildings, the issue of upfront cost is an obstacle that is frequently cited which precludes the widespread adoption of green buildings, which has given birth to this study.

### **Most Common Features of Green Building**

Five credit categories appear to be ordinary looking at different green building schemes worldwide, which this paper adopted as the basic features of a green building as also used by [22, 26] in their respective works. Therefore, to tag a building as the environmentally friendly building must pass the following test:

*Water Efficiency:* This feature of a green building ensures that the water consumed in and by the facility is adequately utilized since water is a natural resource, hence the need to conserve it. The aim is to increase the efficient use of water within the building by reducing the water needed for operations [25, 36].

*Energy Efficiency:* Buildings use energy to heat water, lighting, mechanical ventilation and machinery such as lifts. Hence there is a need to control the use of energy. In doing so, the energy systems should be properly installed and calibrated to perform to their intended efficiency levels. This should reduce the overall energy use and lower operating costs. A minimum grade of acceptable energy performance for the facility should be determined and monitored. Green buildings are expected to use sophisticated building automation systems such as indirect computer-controlled lighting to reduce the need for artificial lighting. It should be designed to turn off to reduce energy consumption [25] automatically.

*Sustainable Sites:* Green buildings are designed to reduce site disturbances. It should preserve existing trees and habitats [25]. In selecting a site for construction, one must ensure that the loca-

tion poses a minor environmental threat when the building takes place. While considering the site to be chosen, essential factors such as; pollution prevention, soil erosion control, airborne dust generation and waterway sedimentation must be critically evaluated [17].

*Materials and Resources:* The amount of landfill waste created during construction and operation can be reduced by efficient use of materials and design for recycling, such as the use of recycled concrete aggregate, recycled content materials such as structural steel, ceiling and floor tiles, recycled glass chips for terrazzo floor, carpet fibre sheathing, gypsum wallboard and other materials which should be locally sourced [17, 25, 36].

*Indoor Environmental Quality:* For a building to pass the indoor environmental quality test, such a building is expected to adopt sustainable materials and furniture with off-gassing volatile organic compounds [VOCs] [25]. Such facilities should use low emitting materials in construction; ventilation systems that promote outdoor air ventilation; should provide a high amount of fresh air intake [17]; is expected to be smoke-free.

### **Contingent Valuation Method**

The contingent valuation method (CVM) is broadly used for cost-benefit analysis and environmental impact assessments of non-market goods and resources. The way estimates the economic value for the various ecosystem and ecological goods and services. It has been said to calculate both use and non-use values and has proven to be most helpful in assessing the value of non-market goods and services (non-use value) [24]. The method directly asks people in a survey how much they are willing to pay for a particular environmental good or service. It is called contingent valuation because people state their willingness to deliver depending on a hypothetical scenario and description of the ecological interest [6].

The method has been adopted and used to assess the value for green buildings [22, 26], renewable energy [5], forests [9], wetlands [28], watersheds [37], and other non-market resource [33]. Although the contingent valuation method has been criticized for its reliability and validity of results, this problem has been avoided through many scholars' efforts by suggesting best practices for its survey [24, 35].

### **METHODOLOGY**

This paper employed the quantitative research approach under which the descriptive research design is adopted based on the nature of the investigation. Based on the number of contact with the study population, this study is designed as a cross-sectional study since the study is aimed at finding out how medium-income earners will act in a green residential market. As such, the study investigates the willingness to pay for green building features at one shot by taking a cross-section of the population. In addition, this study is designed as a prospective study based on a reference period since the aim is to forecast the price to be paid for a good yet to be provided or a good that is likely to be provided in the future.

The paper further employed the survey research strategy in which a questionnaire was developed as the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire consisted of three sections, section one bordered on demographic information of the respondents. In contrast, section two consisted of a contingent valuation survey describing the green building. A hypothetical market was created (a three-bedroom green bungalow to be constructed by private investors and sold close to Makurdi International Market). The price medium-income earners will pay was sought using both the payment card method of contingent valuation and the open-ended process of contingent valuation. The third section of the questionnaire centred on information regarding green building features.

Data for the study was obtained from the population of the study, which are medium income householders of; BIPC Housing Estate Nyiman, BIPC Ever Green Housing Estate North Bank, Aper Aku Housing Estate, Eskay Housing Estate Naka Road, Eskay Housing Estate Akpehe and Grace land Housing Estate. It is noteworthy that the scope of this work narrows the population for the study to only include householders of the above housing estate since there were constructed for the middle-income class, and their housing size and neighbourhood characteristic (medium dense neighbourhood) best suits medium-income households [19].

The sample frame for the study amounted to 552 medium-income householders. A sample size of 300 was drawn out using Krejcie and Morgan table and adjusted to take care of the uncertainty of all householders responding to the survey missing data and outliers' exclusion. The study adopted the stratified sampling technique. Six

strata were created such that the householders of each of the housing estates formed a stratum. As it is familiar with surveys, about 26 questionnaires (8.7%) were not returned by the respondents, therefore amounting to a total retrieved number of 274 questionnaires.

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). For the first objective, the Relative Preference Index was employed to analyze data where the weighted mean of responses from a six-point Likert scale was computed. Then, a decision was made using the scale presented in Table 1.

Table 1 – Decision Making Bench Mark (Likert Scale) [26]

Points	Decision	Bench Mark
1	Extremely Not Important	1.00-1.49
2	Highly Not Important	1.50-2.49
3	Not Important	2.50-3.49
4	Important	3.50-4.49
5	Highly Important	4.50-5.49
6	Extremely Important	5.50-6.00

The second objective, which involved estimating the value householders' are willing to pay for a 3-bedroom green building, was analyzed using an econometric model (binary logistic). The logistic model explains the willingness to pay (WTP) as a function of observable characteristics of the respondents [2]. The mean willingness to pay (MWTP) was then computed from the output of

the binary logistic model using the equation below:

$$MWTP = \frac{-\alpha}{\beta_1} \quad (1)$$

where:  $\alpha$  = Intercept;  $\beta_1$  = Coefficient of Bid Value

The third objective was analyzed using a multiple regression model. The effect of satisfaction with conventional housing attributes and preference for green building features on the amount householders are willing to pay was tested.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Makurdi Medium Income Householders' Preference of Green Residential Building Features

Table 2 reveals that among all the five most common green building features, Makurdi medium-income householders opined that Indoor Environmental Quality, Sustainable Site, Energy Efficiency and Building Materials/Resource were significant to them, recording mean values of 5.16, 5.00, 4.81 and 4.56, respectively. On the other hand, regarding Water Efficiency, house householders revealed that it was simply necessary to have a recorded mean value of 4.49. Therefore, it can be said that Makurdi medium-income householders prefer each of the five green features in the following order; Indoor Environmental Quality, Sustainable Site, Energy Efficiency, Building Materials/Resource, and Water Efficiency.

Table 2 – Preference of Green Residential Building Features

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
P1	272	1	6	4.64	1.084	I
P2	274	1	6	4.30	1.191	VI
P3	272	1	6	4.44	1.180	IV
P4	273	1	6	4.63	1.128	II
P5	272	1	6	4.39	1.206	V
P6	270	1	6	4.54	1.054	III
Water Efficiency	274	1.83	6.00	4.4853	.82741	5
P7	274	1	6	4.75	1.062	IV
P8	273	1	6	5.00	.968	I
P9	272	1	6	4.66	1.125	VI
P10	272	1	6	4.64	1.006	VII
P11	272	2	6	4.94	.911	II
P12	274	1	6	4.75	.975	IV
P13	274	1	6	4.90	.932	III
Energy Efficiency	274	2.00	6.00	4.8056	.78484	3

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
P14	274	2	6	4.95	.934	IV
P15	273	1	6	4.80	1.107	V
P16	274	2	6	5.03	.891	II
P17	274	1	6	5.02	.904	III
P18	274	1	6	5.18	.905	I
Sustainable Site	274	2.00	6.00	4.9956	.75727	2
P19	271	1	6	4.37	1.309	II
P20	274	1	6	4.75	1.115	I
Building materials	274	1.00	6.00	4.5584	1.06916	4
P21	274	2	6	5.20	.831	I
P22	274	2	6	5.11	.898	II
Indoor environmental quality	274	2.00	6.00	5.1551	.80442	1
Preference	274	2.27	6.00	4.7717	.70431	

To measure preference of Indoor Environmental Quality, two items were used [High Ventilating Windows (P21) and Large Size of Room (P22)], which householders opined that both things were essential to them with a recorded mean of 5.20 and 5.11 respectively. Preference of sustainable site adopted five items of measurement. The items are Infrastructure Availability (P14), Proximity to Urban Development (P15), Availability of Trees and Habitant (P16), Pollution Prevention (P17) and Erosion Control (P18). Similarly, householders perceived all the five items to be very important to them with mean values of 4.95, 4.80, 5.03, 5.02 and 5.18, respectively.

Preference of Energy Efficiency was measured using seven items, in which householders revealed that all seven things were essential to them and preferred each of them in this order; Energy Efficient Bulbs (P8) with a mean of 5.00, Solar/Wind Energy (P11) with mean of 4.94, Energy Certified Appliances (P13) with a standard of 4.90, Computer Controlled Lighting(P7) with a mean value of 4.75, Refrigerator Management System (P12) with mean of 4.75, Significant Daylighting Building Design (P9) with mean of 4.66 and LED Lighting Design (P10) with a mean of 4.64. Preference for Sustainable Building the Material feature of green building was measured using two items, Locally Sourced Building Materials (P14) with a standard of 4.37, which suggests that this item is essential to Makurdi medium-income householders. The second item that measured preference for Sustainable Building Materials was renewable construction materials (P20) which recorded a mean value of 4.75, which is interpreted to be very important to them.

Water Efficiency preference was measured using six items of measurement. Medium-income householders opined that three of the items were very important to them and their order of choice for these items were as follows; Innovative Waste Management Technology (P1) having a recorded mean of 4.64, Innovative Rain Water Harvesting Technology (P4) having a recorded mean of 4.63 and Use of Bio-Swales/Bio-Filters (P6) having a documented standard of 4.54. Nevertheless, householders perceived three of the items used to measure preference of water efficiency to be important to them in this order simply; Low Flow WC (P3) with a mean of 4.44, Gray Water Recycling Technology (P5) with a standard of 4.39 and Waterless Urinals (P2) with a mean of 4.30.

This finding is closely related to [29], as most of the same green features were mostly preferred by residents of Canberra, Australia. Equally, estate surveyors and valuers in Lagos expressed a preference for most green features to conventional elements in the study conducted by [15], which is similar to the opinion of Makurdi medium-income residents.

#### **Estimated Amount Medium Income Earners will pay for Three Bedroom Green Residential Bungalow**

The result of the binary logistic regression is presented in Table 3 which the intercept and the bid coefficient is extracted to compute the mean willingness to pay.

Table 3 shows the coefficient of  $\beta_1$  to be 0.00004549 and  $\alpha$  as -700.877. The result showed that Makurdi medium-income householders are willing to purchase a three-bedroom green bungalow at an estimated price of ₦15,407,276.32 (Say; ₦15,500,000).

Table 3 – Parameter Estimates from Logistic Model

Parameter	$\beta$	Std. Error	95% Wald Confidence Interval		Hypothesis Test		
			Lower	Upper	Wald Chi-Square	df	Sig.
(Intercept)	-700.877	41582.3907	-82200.865	80799.111	.000	1	.987
Age	.597	1399.6151	-2742.598	2743.792	.000	1	1.000
Persons	.416	1124.5707	-2203.702	2204.535	.000	1	1.000
Education	-.053	1678.8171	-3290.474	3290.368	.000	1	1.000
Income	-.724	1303.5567	-2555.648	2554.200	.000	1	1.000
Bid	4.549E-5	.0026	-.005	.005	.000	1	.986
(Scale)	1a						

Dependent Variable: Desire  
Model: (Intercept), Age, Persons, Education, Income, Bid

By extension, it can be said that Makurdi medium-income householders are willing to pay a 3.3% premium for green features considering the price to purchase a new high standard three-bedroom conventional building in Makurdi. This finding is closely related to the results of [20], who in their study revealed that commercial and industrial building users of Ibadan, Nigeria were willing to pay a premium of between 1% and 10%.

### Effect of Preference for Green Building features on the Amount Willing to Pay

This study measured if the preference for green building features affects Makurdi medium-income householders' willingness to pay for a green building and the pattern of such effect. The regression model was built to include the preference of each of the five green features as the predictors to explain how each of the green features contributes to the amount willing to pay.

Table 4 – Multiple Regression Model Summary

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R <sup>2</sup> Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.312a	.097	.079	3374602.562	.097	5.208	5	242	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), PEQ, PWE, PSBM, PEE, PSS  
b. Dependent Variable: Amount Willing to Pay

Table 4 reveals a 31.2% relationship between the predictors (preference for the five green features) and the dependent variable (amount willing to pay). This is seen with an R-value of 0.312. In addition, the R<sup>2</sup> of 0.097 suggests that preference for green building features has a 9.7% collective influence on the amount willing to pay. That is to say, the predictor variables account for a 9.7% variance in the dependent variable, whereas 90.3% of the conflict in the amount willing to pay is accounted for by other factors not considered in the model. The p-value further tells that the effect of the predictor variables on the dependent variable is significant since the p-value is less than 0.01.

The Unstandardized  $\beta$  Coefficients in Table 5 further reveal that; a unit increase of water efficiency (PWE) will lead to an ₦422,735.51 decrease in the amount willing to pay, while a unit increase of energy efficiency (PEE) will result to ₦614,262.46 increase in the amount willing to pay. Also, a unit increase of sustainable site (PSS) will result in an ₦540,105.47 rise in the amount willing to pay. In contrast, a unit increase in sustainable building materials (PSBM) will lead to an ₦396,934.23 increase in the willingness to pay. In addition, a unit increase in indoor environmental quality (PIEQ) will increase the amount willing to pay by ₦1,223,980.87.

Table 5 – Multiple Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1 (Constant)	9673368.280	1592302.886		6.075	.000		
PWE	-422735.514	389776.996	-.094	-1.085	.279	.501	1.996
PEE	614262.460	493665.817	.131	1.244	.215	.336	2.978
PSS	540105.474	580517.093	-.112	-.930	.353	.258	3.870
PSBM	396934.232	302019.561	.109	1.314	.190	.537	1.860
PIEQ	1223980.866	505284.493	.271	2.422	.016	.299	3.344

a. Dependent Variable: Amount Willing to Pay

## CONCLUSIONS

This study has concluded that Makurdi medium-income earners are willing to pay a 3.3% premium price for green residential building features, which suggests a low premium regarding the viability of such an investment considering the economic implication of acquiring the green technology in Nigeria and the financial standing of the nation. However, suppose awareness is created on green building and its benefits. In that case, Makurdi medium-income earners will be likely to pay more to purchase green homes, which may increase the premium to pay for green building features to a more realizable value. Therefore, government and private investors may consider delving into such a project considering the militating factors.

The study recommends that the government and private investors venture into providing green residential buildings in faces. The quantities of units increase gradually to allow the product to create awareness for itself gradually, which will likely lead to more demand transcending to a higher price. Also, more attention should be made to the importance of building green. At the same time, the government equally need to come up with a green housing policy that will promulgate a green building certification scheme of Nigeria that will define and regulate the development of the building industry, turning design, construction and operation of building towards sustainability while also making mortgage readily available and at attractive rates to those willing to build green.

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