What is a Green Building?

Green building (also known as green construction or sustainable building) refers to a holistic process of building design, construction, and operation that is environmentally responsible, resource efficient, and healthy for occupants and users. Green buildings are designed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment throughout the building lifecycle.

Leed vs. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. LEED promotes sustainable building and development practices through a suite of green building rating systems flexible enough to apply to all building types—commercial as well as residential.

Some of the ways we Achieve LEED

Water Efficiency

The building achieved a score of at least 50 LEED points for water efficiency. Meeting and exceed the 2030 Water Use benchmarks for new buildings.

Sustainable Sites

The building is sited to reduce the potential for flooding and has a green roof that provides a 10% reduction in roof water runoff. The 85% of the building's parking spaces are accessible to public transportation.

Indoor Environmental Quality

The building uses low-emitting materials and has a 50% outdoor view.

Innovation in Design

The building is designed to be LEED Platinum.

Water and Energy go Hand in Hand

The building is designed to be LEED Platinum.

Reducing Impact on Local Water Sources

The building is designed to be LEED Platinum.

Eat Local and Compost

The building is designed to be LEED Platinum.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Preserve

The building is designed to be LEED Platinum.

Some other Green Tips

This brochure is printed on 100% recycled paper.

Recycled materials used at the Watershed Center

Cabinetry—Medium density fiberboard (MDF) is a recycled product made of wood chips and sawdust.

Carpets—Many carpets on the market today include recycled materials. Green carpet is an example of an eco-friendly material that contains indoor air quality (IAQ) certifications.

Composite Decking—Used at the Watershed Center, composite decking is made from recycled wood, plastic, or both—“man-made” materials like concrete or steel.

Permeable Pavers—These pavers absorb and retain water, allowing rain to run off rather than seep into the groundwater supply.

Concrete—Some concrete products have a 10% pre-consumer recycled content.

Roof—Made largely from limestone quarried and crushed, concrete is an excellent choice for a building's roof.

Walls—Common wall materials include fiberglass insulation with 60% post-consumer recycled content.

Windows—The windows in the building are very efficient, with insulated glazing designed to reflect unwanted heat.

Materials & Resources

Many simple and easy materials were used in the building's construction and operation that will help us identify water efficient fixtures. The building also used recycled paper for our project.

Resources

For more information, visit the informative website www.usgbc.org.