

La Plata Town Hall is LEED certified

The La Plata Town Hall recently achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's leading edge system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, energy efficient and high performing buildings. The Town Hall was designed to achieve LEED certification for sustainable sites in site selection, reduced site disturbance, and landscape and exterior design to reduce heat islands; water and energy efficiency; materials and resources in material use; indoor environmental quality, and a variety of other sustainable strategies.

Sustainable design was part of the Town's desire to be respectful of the Town Hall's physical surroundings, the environment and the employees who would occupy the building. Some of the building's sustainable features include:

❖ Reduced site disturbance

- ♦ Restoration of 50.7% of the site area, excluding the building footprint, by replacing the tornado-damaged trees and invasive non-native plants with trees and drought-tolerant shrubs and flowers which are native to the Southern Maryland area.

❖ Water and energy efficiency

- ♦ Reduction by 50% of use of potable water for landscape purposes; use of drought-tolerant and native plants.
- ♦ Geothermal heating and cooling system.

❖ Materials and resources

- ♦ Use of construction materials with recycled content; use of construction materials manufactured or harvested locally/regionally.
- ♦ Reduction of waste disposed of in the landfill by implementation of a post-occupancy recycling plan, which includes individual recycling bins at each employee's desk, which are emptied into a central recycling container in a dedicated space, and regular weekly pick-up by a contractor.

❖ Indoor environmental quality

- ♦ Implementation of an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan during the construction and the pre-occupancy phases of the building.
- ♦ Use of low-emitting materials during construction, including adhesives, sealants, and paints.
- ♦ Providing for daylight in 75% of indoor spaces; use of low-E insulating glass.
- ♦ Use of "green housekeeping" products and practices.
- ♦ Use of reduced mercury fluorescent lighting.