



LEED® Certification Goes Online...Are We There Yet?

by USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter Communications Committee

In November 2005, USGBC announced a series of major enhancements and refinements to the LEED certification process. These innovations—the result of a nearly year-long process involving extensive market research and interviews with LEED users—dramatically reduce the time, cost and paperwork of LEED Certification.

Brief overview of key innovations:

LEED Goes Paperless

LEED projects can now submit 100% of their documentation on-line in an easy-to-use interface featuring Adobe® LiveCycle™ technology. Via LEED-Online, project team members can upload credit templates, track Credit Interpretation Requests (CIRs), manage key project details, contact cus-

tomers service, and communicate with reviewers throughout the design and construction reviews.

Streamlined Documentation and Certification

The LEED documentation process now more closely aligns itself with existing instruments of service to cut down on additional project documentation. In addition, the LEED certification review process has been streamlined and made significantly more user-friendly.

Design and Construction Phase Submittals

Project teams will have the option to submit documentation in two separate phases: first for the design phase, and then the construction phase.

Building in a Feedback Loop

In addition to improved customer service throughout the LEED process, USGBC is taking steps to make customer feedback and interaction an integral part of that process. The LEED refinements will enable improved customer service and increased customer interaction. (Source: USGBC)

Feedback from Local Users

Indeed the new LEED-Online process is a great service all users will benefit from—we all know time saved means more dollars can be spent where they result in the greatest value for the project—but what are local users experiencing so far? One project administrator noted the online credit template process is far more

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Please email communications@usgbcmn.org if you would like to be added to the Chapter mailing list.

Chapter memberships are available!

Support your local USGBC—download a membership form from our [website](http://www.usgbc.org). Online membership processing is available at www.usgbc.org

Check out our website: www.usgbcmn.org for **upcoming events**, including the Green St. Paul Tour on March 9th.

Benefits of the USGBC Brand: Can I Use the USGBC Logo on My Company's Marketing Materials?

by USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter Communications Committee

Have you ever noticed that little © next to the acronym "LEED" or our USGBC Chapter logo? The U.S. Green Building Council owns a number of trademark registrations, including the USGBC Logo.

The USGBC Logo is a powerful marketing tool and a valuable asset of USGBC and its members, but there is a different logo for use by members. You may have seen it included on company stationery or at a tradeshow display. Use of the USGBC Logo is governed by strict legal guidelines, so here is a quick reference guide.

A member logo has been designed for use by member companies to promote USGBC. Members may download digital member logos from www.usgbc.org under "myUSGBC" by clicking on "Resources & Graphics." The USGBC Member logo is distinct from the USGBC Organization logo. The USGBC Member logo must always have the word "Member" written under the seal in black.



Member Use of Logo

The Member logo may be used in connection with the member's business (stationery, letterhead, business cards, etc.).

The entire Member logo and words must be used and may not be altered in any way.

Only USGBC members in good standing may use the USGBC Member logo.

If you have specific questions about using the Member logo, send an email to: communications@usgbcmn.org.

(Source: USGBC)

Green to the Core: Flannery Construction's New Headquarters

by Amanda Nonnemacher, LEED AP, Editor (photos courtesy of Flannery Construction)

If you've driven through St. Paul on I-94 you've undoubtedly noticed Flannery Construction's new headquarters. Perched above the freeway on St. Anthony Avenue and Hamline Avenue, the bold structure crowned with solar panels calls for a double take. Dynamic signage spells out the name Flannery in larger-than-life sized letters. The predominately gray concrete façade is punctuated with circular windows and geometric shapes painted in red, blue, and green.



Solar panels are set in place

Green-colored accents are woven throughout the interior and exterior of the building. However, the green goes deeper than the skin—the project is sustainable to the core.

Key Strategies & Outcomes:

The building is projected to be 37% more energy efficient than traditional construction

Solar panels to provide 30% warm water annually

Low-emitting paints, glues, and caulk

Sustainable materials: Wheatboard, reclaimed Douglas Fir, reclaimed plumbing fixtures and doors, and recycled ceiling tiles

Ceiling insulation made from recycled newspaper and resin

Ongoing cleaning utilizes green products

Tours and signage to educate the community on sustainable design and construction

Conference room available to local non-profits for meetings

From the project's inception, Flannery Construction's goal was to build a high-performance, green building that would achieve LEED-NC certification. Flannery leveraged their position as the contractor and owner of the building to streamline the design and construction process. The money saved through the expedited process ultimately translated into a larger sustainable design budget for the project.

From the exterior, the two-story building's most visible green feature is the solar panels. The panels are used to warm the water for the radiant floor heating. The solar panels are designed to annually heat 30 percent of the building's warm water. In the summer months, the building will stay cooler due to the highly reflective Energy Star roof system.

LEED Sustainable Site credits are incorporated into the project with stormwater management and water efficient landscaping. Alternative transportation is promoted through the incorporation of bike lockers, changing rooms, and showers for the Flannery employees.

Flannery had a Construction IAQ Management Plan in place throughout the project. The construction schedule was sequenced to accommodate a two week flush-out period prior to occupancy. The project also used all low-emitting paints, glues, and caulk in order to comply with the LEED low-emitting materials credits. In order to maintain a high level of indoor air quality, Flannery used green cleaning products for the pre-occupancy final clean and plans to use green products for all ongoing cleaning. Besides being able to breathe easier, the

majority of the Flannery office employees also enjoy daylight and direct views to the outdoors. The heating is split into multiple zones so that different parts of the office have separate

Construction's mission—to engage in civic leadership and community involvement. Through tours and informational plaques, Flannery's headquarters will be used to educate the



Flannery Construction's new headquarters: green goes deeper than the skin

controls. Overall the building's energy consumption is projected to be 37 percent less than a standard commercial building.

Green materials were incorporated into the building whenever possible. The exposed ceiling is insulated with a product composed of recycled newspaper and resin. Wheatboard was chosen based on the fact that it is a rapidly renewable material. Reclaimed Douglas Fir and plumbing fixtures were used for the finishes. Salvaged doors were given new lives as workstation desktops.

Implementation of all the sustainable features resulted in an overall construction cost increase of 6 to 7 percent, but as the long-term owner of the building, Flannery will see full payback in 7 to 8 years. The building also embodies Flannery

broader community on green design. The spacious first-floor meeting room is also available for local non-profit groups to hold meetings.

Flannery Construction's current goal is to achieve LEED-NC Silver certification. The project architect was Peter Kramer of Roark Kramer Kosowski DESIGN. The LEED consultant was Craig Caligiuri of DJR Architecture. Gausman & Moore was the engineering consultant. Gerry and Jamey Flannery were the construction project managers.



Radiant floor heating installation



LEED Certification Goes Online

(continued from page 1)

streamlined than the cumbersome Microsoft Excel templates used in the former version. The new LEED-Online templates, currently only available for LEED-NC 2.1, utilize Adobe LiveCycle technology. The Adobe technology creates PDF files automatically from the data input, thereby saving the extra steps to create and upload the documents. LEED Online for LEED-NC v2.2, LEED-EB v2.0, and LEED-CI v2.0 is expected to be available in March 2006.

An additional point made by a user from our Chapter is that, under the old system, LEED administrators were required to collect, review, then upload credit templates. With LEED-Online, each team member uploads his or her own template(s) into a central online storage area. This requires the

administrator to either frequently check to see if new information has been posted or rely on team members to communicate when a new template has been uploaded. However, a benefit of this new process is the team is basically forced to stay in constant contact during this stage of the project. Another LEED administrator praised the new system as being more user friendly, adding that administrators can now access all of the uploaded LEED documentation from anywhere there is an Internet connection. Once everyone is used to the system, LEED-Online should live up to all expectations—giving those involved in the LEED documentation and submission process even greater tools with which to assist their clients.

For additional information and updates on LEED-Online, [click here](#) and bookmark the page.

Green Buildings Feature



The USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter is hosting a tour of the following projects on March 9th. Design professionals from HGA Architects and Engineers and BWBR Architects will present the sustainable design strategies for these three State of Minnesota Projects. Please visit our [website](#) for details and registration.

Elmer L. Anderson Department of Human Services

Located on a tight urban site as part of the Capitol Complex in downtown St. Paul, the Elmer L. Anderson Department of Human Services building was designed using version 1.0 of the Minnesota Sustainable Design Guide. An energy-efficient design was achieved using integrated daylighting and underfloor air distribution systems. Created for an 80-year life, the building is designed for flexibility with raised floors, movable partitions, and zones that can shift between open and closed offices.



Orville L. Freeman Office

The Orville L. Freeman Office is a state-of-the-art co-location of the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Health that creates synergies of shared information and knowledge among agency staff. Designed according to the Minnesota Sustainable Design Guide, the building incorporates a number of sustainable design strategies, such as daylighting, water-use reduction, improved indoor air quality during and after construction, and construction waste management.



Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Health

The world-class laboratory for the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Health puts Minnesota at the forefront of public health and safety and positions the State as a leader in energy efficient building design. Using molecular sieve, desiccant-based heat wheel technology, the laboratory is able to reduce its peak energy consumption over 30% in comparison to a conventional laboratory mechanical system.



SAVE THE DATES!

Future Chapter Events–

Please mark your calendar and stay tuned:

April 11: Green Specifications,
7:30 - 9:00 am

April 25: CALA Earth Day Event on
Solar and Renewable Design,
4:00 - 5:30 pm

May 09: Green Residential Forum
(time TBA)

Sept 28: LEED Project Cost & Returns
Workshop, 8 am - noon

Oct: Chapter Annual Meeting
(date/time TBA)

Nov 09: LEED-NC Technical Review
Workshop (repeat) 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

*All dates subject to change. Updates will be
emailed and posted on our website as they
become available.*

USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter Board

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(formerly MN Office of Environmental Assistance)

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Chapter Committees

Would you like to meet and network with others in the green community?

How about the opportunity to be a part of shaping your local USGBC Chapter? Committee involvement is a great way to meet new people, stay up-to-date with Chapter activities and have fun! All committees are currently seeking new members. Contact the committee chair to find out the date of the next committee meeting - we'd love to see you there.

Membership Committee

Chair: Dan Osterman, McGough Companies: membership@usgbcmmn.org

This committee works to develop a thriving and diverse membership for the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter. The committee follows up with requests for membership information, and implements activities to recruit and retain members. This committee also seeks sponsorships to support and fund Chapter activities.

Education Committee

Chair: Rick Carter, LHB Inc.: education@usgbcmmn.org

This committee is responsible for developing and promoting the Chapter's educational activities, a database for green presentation topics and speakers, and LEED training. Events will include high-quality seminars, workshops, tours and other continuing education for professionals, organizations, and individuals on the latest green building trends and technologies.

Networking Committee

Co-Chairs: Leslie Wilson, Carver County Environmental Services, representing the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board; Ken Potts, McGough Companies: networking@usgbcmmn.org

This committee works to create a network of organizations with complementary goals and to provide a forum for these diverse groups to exchange ideas and resources for promoting a sustainable built environment within our region.

Communications Committee

Chair: Kimberly A. Johnson, The Weidt Group: communications@usgbcmmn.org

The intent of this committee is to promote the Chapter to the general public while raising awareness of sustainable issues in all sectors of the marketplace. This committee maintains the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter website and the membership database, develops and distributes the Chapter e-newsletter, and is also responsible for communicating event and general USGBC information. In addition, the committee develops press releases on USGBC activities.

Emerging Green Builders

Co-Chairs: Ben Kerl, LanderGroup; Heather Gay, Faithful & Gould: egb@usgbcmmn.org

[The Emerging Green Builders](#) represents a coalition of students and young professionals intent on promoting the integration of future leaders into the green building movement.

We hope this newsletter has been informative. Please let us know your opinion and suggestions. We look forward to your cooperation in our endeavor to promote and encourage sustainable design strategies for professionals, building owners and operators in the upper Midwest. If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact the editor.

Editor: Amanda Nonnemacher: editor@usgbcmmn.org