



Villagra Building Gets the Gold

By Sandra Bosben

The recently completed Paul Bardacke Attorney General Complex, which serves as the office of the New Mexico State Attorney General, has achieved Gold LEED-CI Certification from the United States Green Building Council.

This certification for Commercial Interiors (CI) recognizes the sustainable design and construction of the facility through its achievements within the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™.

Originally Constructed in 1934

The complex consists of the newly renovated historic Villagra Building, originally constructed in 1934, and an attached four-story office addition. Cameron Construction completed construction in March of 2006.

First LEED Gold in New Mexico

Valerie Walsh, LEED consultant with LEED Management Services, said, "This is a tremendous accomplishment and one that you should all be very proud of. From my review of the USGBC website, it is only the third building to be LEED Certified in New Mexico and is the first Certified State Building for New Mexico. As you know, the Governor has signed an Executive Order for state buildings to achieve LEED Silver Certification, the second of four levels possible. We have exceeded that by one level which is a very good example to set." It is further distinguished as the first building to in New Mexico achieve Gold LEED Certification.

Some of the environmental features of the Villagra Building include:

- Energy savings of 31%
- Water savings of 71%
- 100% wind power was purchased to offset carbon emissions
- 82% of construction waste was recycled or diverted from the landfill
- FSC-certified wood for sustainably harvested wood
- Recycled content building materials
- Low VOC materials (non-toxic) contribute to healthy indoor air quality
- Green Guard Certified furnishings
- A high-performance ventilation system for healthy indoor air quality
- Lighting occupancy sensors and daylighting controls
- Green Janitorial policy using non-toxic Green Seal certified products
- Environmental Purchasing policy for office and paper products
- Construction Indoor Air Quality measure taken during construction
- Preferred use of local/regional materials to reduce transportation emissions and support local economy
- Preferred parking for low-emitting and hybrid vehicles
- Bicycle rack and shower facility to encourage alternate transportation

Other LEED projects that Cameron is currently working on include the new Santa Fe Farmers' Market and the Santa Fe Civic Center.

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