

Energizing EPA

Office of Administration and Resources Management's Newsletter on Energy Conservation and Sustainable Facilities

June 2003



Pollution prevention—it's not just part of EPA's mission, but it's something we practice every day as EPA employees. This issue highlights some of the Agency's pollution prevention efforts in action—from our newest sustainable lab facility in Kansas City, to a revamped Headquarters recycling program, to Agency-wide green purchasing goals.



A Window to the Future of Lab Design

EPA opened a new Science & Technology Center in Kansas City, Kansas, May 9, 2003, with an eye on the gold—that is, a Gold Level rating for energy, resource, and water efficiency from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) program.

LEED™ is a green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage design and construction practices that significantly reduce or eliminate the negative impact of buildings on the environment and occupants. EPA's Kansas City Science & Technology Center (KCSTC) will be applying for what it hopes will be a Gold Level certification, the second highest rating in the LEED™ program. Since most laboratories use more energy and water per square foot than typical office buildings, this presented a unique sustainable design challenge to KCSTC planners.

"With the design of this new facility, we wanted to preserve natural resources, ensure occupancy health, and serve as a model for future lab design," said Cathy Berlow, an architect with EPA's Sustainable Facilities Practices Branch.

Located on a brownfield redevelopment site, KCSTC is one of 10 EPA regional laboratories that provide monitoring, analytical support, and data assessments. "This facility is furnished with the latest equipment and technology to make it a state-of-the-art, world class lab for environmental testing, research, and analysis," said EPA Administrator Christine Whitman.

The 72,100 square foot facility incorporates



From left to right: Rev. Frank Horvat, St. John the Baptist Church; Morris X. Winn, AA for Office of Administration & Resources Management, EPA; Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator, EPA; James E. Guilliford, Regional Administrator, EPA; Bradley M. Scott, Regional Administrator, GSA; Kansas City Mayor Carol Marinovich.

numerous sustainable features, but one of the most notable is the rooftop rainwater recapture system, which directs water from a portion of the roof into a holding tank. It will collect approximately 763,000 gallons of water per year, which will be used for toilet flushing, cooling tower make-up, and landscape irrigation. Additional sustainable characteristics include:

- **Energy efficiency**—The building was sited to maximize energy efficiency and daylighting and included low-e window glass, occupancy sensors, and technologically advanced mechanical control systems.
- **Water conservation**—Low-flow plumbing fixtures, the rooftop rainwater recapture system, and native landscaping all reduce water use.

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KCSTC is not the first EPA facility to seek a LEED™ Gold Rating—the New England Regional Laboratory in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, was recently certified as LEED™ Gold for its myriad sustainable design features. EPA's National Computer Center in North Carolina has also applied for a LEED™ Silver Rating. (See August 2002 issue.)

- **Recycling**—Asphalt paving and many other materials were recycled during construction. Recycled content materials used include insulation, drywall, concrete, metal studs, rebar, steel joists, glass, carpet, ceiling tiles, and ceramic tile flooring.
- **Resource conservation**—Many construction materials were obtained locally or produced, packaged, or transported in a way that reduced energy and material use.
- **Indoor air quality**—Low volatile organic compound adhesives, paints, sealants, glues, caulks, carpets and floor tiles were used, and extra care was taken during construction to avoid airborne contaminants.

For more information on the KCSTC, visit

<www.epa.gov/greeningepa/facilities/kansascity-lab.htm>

or contact Cathy Berlow at <berlow.cathy@epa.gov>.

