

LEED Certification and Green Efforts

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is a green building certification program administered by the US Green Building Council.

Monona Terrace was one of the first existing convention centers in the United States to receive LEED Silver certification in 2007, received Gold status in 2015, and Platinum in 2021. The LEED Platinum designation reflects the ongoing environmental commitment of the City of Madison, Dane County and Monona Terrace. Our commitment to sustainability also recognizes the legacy of our renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who pioneered an organic approach to architecture.

The LEED Mission aims for improving performance in these metrics:

1. Site development
2. Water savings
3. Energy & atmosphere
4. Materials and resources
5. Indoor environmental quality

Some key facts:

- * Monona Terrace has an energy use rating 27 percent below similar facilities in comparable climates.
- * Water use reduced to 43 percent below the LEED benchmark.
- * Purchase of green energy to offset 100 percent electric power consumption and 100 percent offset of non-electric carbon emissions. This equates to 15,313 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) during the 5-year LEED performance period.
- * Continuing conversion from fluorescent and metal halide lighting to LED technology.
- * Compost over 29,000 pounds of pre-consumer, organic kitchen waste.
- * Donation of approximately 5,500 pounds of food to charity each year.
- * Site gardens host over 6,800 square feet of native plantings used to reseed 162,000 square feet of City of Madison green space.

How we obtained LEED Platinum:

Through the continuation and improvement of LEED sustainability practices already in place and new initiatives.

Continuous Improvement Examples:

- * Ongoing commissioning—the careful scheduling, measurement, and monitoring of our energy consuming systems, including heating, air conditioning, and lighting.
- * Recycling of ongoing consumables (divert 50 percent from the landfill)
- * Indoor environmental quality, increasing and careful monitoring outside air delivery.

New Platinum Initiatives:

- * Improved efficiency of water fixtures and fittings (rooftop renovation, 35 % below LEED Benchmark)

- * Transition of our gardens to native plantings yielding substantial environment benefits, including decrease in water usage due to diminished irrigation demands. That vegetation also used to reseed other City of Madison green spaces in partnership with city engineering.