

footprint

Making positive
impressions
day after day

WINTER
2008 | VOLUME 1
ISSUE 2

LEEDing the way

When you think about it, the numbers are staggering.

Approximately **30%** of total Canadian greenhouse gas emissions. Around **38%** of total Canadian secondary energy use. And **40%** of raw materials used globally or 3 billion tons per year.

These statistics represent the impact that commercial and residential buildings have on the environment and help explain why the green building movement is gaining momentum – not just in Canada, but worldwide.

This drive to sustainable buildings emphasizes the growing importance of adopting design and construction practices that reduce or eliminate the negative impact of buildings on the environment. How? By promoting a whole-building, collaborative, and integrated approach.

At the forefront of this movement is LEED® (or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), an initiative originally developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to establish a set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. The result is a consensus-based rating system for designing, constructing, operating, and certifying the world's greenest buildings. To date these standards have been applied to more than 14,000 projects in 70 countries, including over 3.6 billion square feet of commercial space.

LEED in Canada

In 2003, the original LEED guidelines were adapted for use in Canada by the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) and are organized into five main categories:

- Sustainable site planning
- Safeguarding water and water efficiency
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Conservation of materials and resources
- Indoor environmental quality

Here's how LEED certification works. Buildings must first achieve certain threshold prerequisites and then earn

additional credits in each of the five categories. Based on the number of points a building is awarded overall, it then qualifies for one of four levels of certification – Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.

Applicants who are seeking certification submit all the required documentation – as well as the appropriate fee – to the CaGBC for evaluation. Though the process is self-evaluating and self-documenting, ultimately, only the CaGBC can grant certification.

Currently, the Canadian guidelines apply to new construction and major renovation of commercial, institutional, and high-rise residential buildings. However, in the future, it is anticipated that standards will be introduced for neighbourhood development, residential projects, and existing buildings as well.

Why certify?

Of course, the most obvious benefit of having more and more buildings striving for LEED certification is the positive impact those efforts will have on the environment. Simply put, green buildings use critical resources more efficiently than those that are just built to code.

...continued on the back



“By 2009,
**80% OF CORPORATE
AMERICA** is expected to be
ENGAGED IN GREEN at least
16% of the time, and
20% will be engaged in
green 60% of the time.”

(Source: McGraw Hill Construction,
Greening of Corporate America
SmartMarket Report, 2007)



Continued from the front...

But there are other advantages of going green. Proponents have long cited the positive impact on employee productivity, health, and comfort, as well as the economic gains associated with decreased life cycle operating costs. These claims are further bolstered by a recent study by CoStar Group in the U.S. that found that green buildings “outperform their peer non-green assets in key areas such as occupancy, sale price, and rental rates, sometimes by wide margins”.

As a result, LEED certification is increasingly seen as a must-have and is quickly becoming a key differentiator in the marketplace. Keep an eye on the sustainable building movement – like all else green it will surely be leading the way into the future.

Who's gone GREEN?

Here are some examples of LEED certified buildings in south-western Ontario. For a complete list, or to view case studies of sample projects, visit the Canada Building Council website at www.cagbc.ca.

- Stratus Vineyards Limited (Niagara-on-the-Lake)
- Emergency Medical Services Fleet Centre (Cambridge)
- E'Terra Inn (Tobermory)
- HOK Canada + Urbana Architects Office (Toronto)
- TEDCO/Canpar Distribution Facility (Toronto)
- Radiance @ MintoGardens (Toronto)
- Humber College Urban Ecology Centre (Toronto)
- Toronto Federal Judicial Centre (Toronto)
- St. Gabriel's Passionist Parish (Toronto)
- Steelcare Plant 19 (Hamilton)
- Challenger Motor Freight Corporate Headquarters (Cambridge)
- The Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (Mississauga)

ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS

Waste diversion and recycling are key components of the LEED certification process. Here's how Wasteco can help you achieve your green building goals:



- Under the Materials & Resources category of the LEED Canada rating system, having an easily accessible area that is dedicated to the separation, collection and storage of materials for recycling is a mandatory prerequisite. Wasteco's experts can help you establish a recycling program that will meet this requirement and can provide you with the necessary documentation for submission to the CaGBC.
- You can earn points towards LEED certification by diverting construction, demolition and land clearing debris away from landfill disposal. Divert 50% of the waste to earn one point; bring your diversion total up to 75% for an additional point. After helping you set up an effective recycling and waste diversion program, we can prepare the diversion reports and documentation required by the CaGBC.

PROFILE: Dave Watkins, the Turtle Guy

Meet Dave Watkins. By day, Dave is an integral part of the Wasteco team, working as our Maintenance Clerk, a position he's held for the past five years. But when he's not on the job, Dave assumes a very different role: turtle tallyer.

Since 2004, Dave has spent much of his spare time at Eglinton Flats in the Mount Dennis neighbourhood of Toronto, monitoring the turtle population in and around Topham Pond. He's a volunteer with the Toronto Zoo's Turtle Tally program and he often rescues turtle eggs, incubating them at his home so they stand a better chance of hatching.

“The way I look at it,” Dave explains, “if one of those hatchlings survives and takes the place of 20 turtles that have died, I've done something worthwhile.”



THE LATEST

Toronto city council approved a vote for Toronto shoppers to pay a nickel for every throwaway plastic bag they take from retailers starting June 1, 2009. It's time to buy those eco-chic reusable shopping totes!!

1 The **RCO Waste Minimization Awards** were distributed as part of Waste Reduction Week (October 19-25, 2008) and a number of Wasteco clients were recognized for their efforts, including:

- Litens Automotive
- Bramalea City Centre – Morguard
- Centrepont Mall – Morguard
- East York Town Centre – Morguard
- Dundee Place (1 Adelaide Street East) – Oxford Properties
- 4711 Yonge Street – Menkes
- 5000 Yonge Street – Menkes
- 6880 Financial Drive – Bentall Real Estate

In addition, Wasteco won a Silver Award in the Promotion category. The full list of award winners can be viewed at www.rco.on.ca/upload/2008%20Award_Winners.pdf.

2 **Earth Month – April 2009**

It's never too early to start planning what you can do to make a difference to the environment and to reduce the impact your activities have on the planet.

Introducing our NEW newsletter: footprint

As you've likely noticed, the Wasteco newsletter has had a complete makeover: a new design and a new name. We believe this updated look reflects our ongoing pledge to stay fresh and be progressive in our industry. We are excited to share it with you. What hasn't changed, however, is our commitment to providing you with news you can use, including the latest trends in waste and recycling, upcoming events, and more information about Wasteco's growing suite of services. Enjoy!



WASTECO IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF BOMA, OWMA, HEAT, TBMOA & RCO www.wastecogroup.com