What is LEED?

LEED™ – Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design – is the most recognized green building rating system in the marketplace today. Developed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED provides building owners and managers with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building strategies, from design and construction through the ongoing operations and maintenance of given facilities. LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance certification ensures that the facility adheres to a set of rigorous green building policies and practices, ranging from energy and water conservation to optimal indoor environmental quality and waste reduction.

Woodland Primary School is one of only a handful of LEED EB: O&M certified public elementary schools in the country and the 1st in the state of Illinois to receive Silver Certification.
Green Building Facts

Why is LEED important?

LEED is a globally recognized symbol of green building excellence. It provides independent, third party verification through technical experts that ensure building certification meets the highest levels of quality and integrity and improves human and environmental health.

How is LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance Certification achieved?

The LEED rating system consists of seven credit categories that address the entire spectrum of green building performance and operations. These include Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, Innovation in Operations, and Regional Priority.

For the certification process, Siemens and Woodland worked hand in hand to document the impact of efficiency improvements and identify additional sustainability measures that would help achieve LEED certification. The final application and supporting information were submitted to the USGBC for final review and approval.

What are the benefits for Woodland Primary School?

Through the process of becoming LEED certified, Woodland Primary School has improved the indoor environment quality for students and faculty, aided the conservation of water and other natural resources, and increased the energy efficiency of its operations. District 50’s Operations & Facilities team along with the leadership team at Woodland Primary School have already seen a quick return on investment. “Our electric usage has decreased by 10% or 88,000 kWh and natural gas by 15% or 9,300 therms respectively,” adds Leonard. “To put that in perspective, it is the equivalent of operating 817 flat screen TVs, 4,343 laptop computers, or eliminating the average electricity used by 32 homes in an entire year.”

Greening schools, decreased energy consumption, lower operating costs and a greater carbon footprint is the truest model of sustainability. The environmental benefits are somewhat staggering considering a 25% drop in electricity and natural gas usage will avoid sending 48.6 tons of waste to the landfill. “As stewards of the community, we have a social responsibility to do the right things for our entire community and the environment,” states Superintendent, Dr. Joy Swoboda.

LEED Profile

Facility: Woodland Primary School
Classification: LEED Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance
Certification Level: Silver (51 points achieved)
Certification Date: September 2013

As District 50 teaches its youngest students about respect for the environment, the school building itself becomes a learning tool for this important lesson. Swoboda adds, “By adopting green building strategies and procedures, it is our hope that our accomplishments at Primary school will serve as a blueprint for not only our district but for our neighboring schools in and around Lake County.”