

CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC

THE

CONNECTION

JANUARY 2008

What is LEED®?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.

LEED certification provides independent, third-party verification that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures. All certified projects receive a LEED plaque, which is the nationally recognized symbol demonstrating that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work.

There are both environmental and financial benefits to earning LEED certification.

LEED-certified buildings:

- * Lower operating costs and increased asset value.
- * Reduce waste sent to landfills.
- * Conserve energy and water.
- * Healthier and safer for occupants.
- * Reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- * Qualify for tax rebates, zoning allowances and other incentives in hundreds of cities.
- * Demonstrate an owner's commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

MILLER-DAVIS SELECTED FOR KALAMAZOO'S FIRST LEED-CERTIFIED NEW CONSTRUCTION

Kalamazoo College's Hick Center, the city's first LEED-certified new construction, has opened the first phase of its renovation. The Center has undergone a down-to-the-studs renovation and is on track to achieve silver LEED-certification as a result of the tenacity of several environmentally conscious K College students.

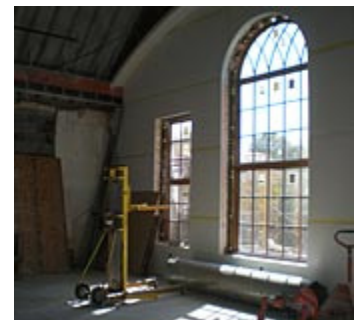
Miller-Davis was selected to build the project because of their past performance on the K College Library and the fact that they have 4 LEED-accredited professionals on staff qualified to support such an effort. Miller-Davis has been leading sustainable building processes locally since they built the Fetzer Institute Retreat in 1994.

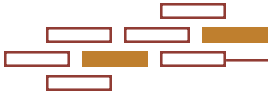
Currently, Grand Rapids leads the state of Michigan with the most LEED-certified buildings. Miller-Davis is setting out to change that trend with 2 LEED projects currently in the works.

The Midweek Briefing Jan 16, 2008
A publication of the AGC of Michigan

Eligibility

Commercial buildings as defined by standard building codes are eligible for certification under the LEED for New Construction, LEED for Existing Buildings, LEED for Commercial Interiors, LEED for Retail, LEED for Schools and LEED for Core & Shell rating systems. Building types include – but are not limited to – offices, retail and service establishments, institutional buildings (e.g., libraries, schools, museums and religious institutions), hotels and residential buildings of four or more habitable stories.





BEGIN THE YEAR WITH A CLEAN SWEEP

The start of the new year is an ideal time to remember the importance of keeping work areas neat and clean. A sloppy workplace can result in injuries, fires, and low morale. So why not take this opportunity to institute a clean sweep and commit to a debris-free year?

OSHA Requirements and Worker Hazards

OSHA requires that all places of employment, passageways, storerooms, and service rooms be kept clean and orderly and in sanitary condition. In addition, every floor, working place, and passageway must also be kept in good repair, free from protruding nails, splinters, holes or loose boards.

The National Safety Council suggests important tips on ways to keep your work area clean, such as:

Look before you walk to make sure the pathway is clear. If you see anything on the floor, pick it up.

Close drawers after every use.

Secure electrical cords and wires away from walkways.

Report loose carpeting or damaged flooring to the appropriate person.

Dispose of unnecessary combustible materials. An accumulation of waste or improperly stored materials increases the likelihood and the severity of fires.

Clean tools after using them and store them in their proper place. Report broken tools.

Keep paper products, flammable liquids, and hazardous substances in labeled containers and store them in designated storage areas.

Dispose of oily, greasy, or paint-covered rags in a designated container with a tight lid.

Follow prescribed machine cleaning and maintenance routines, including lockout/tagout procedures. Be sure guards and interlocks are secure and in good working order, and report any problems promptly. Keep lights bright and clean, and free from obstructions.

Good housekeeping practices that involve all employees will create a safer working environment and get everyone off to a safe start in 2008.



Slip and Fall Prevention

Falling Through the Cracks

In any workplace, there are often things that go unnoticed, especially if they have been that way for a long time. Papers pile up, hinges become loose, and potholes take over the parking lots. Before you know it, you've got a housekeeping nightmare and safety problems everywhere. Inspect your workspace daily. Maintenance is key to keeping things safe and clean. Don't fall down on the job. If you notice something that needs to be cleaned up or repaired, notify your supervisor.

Standards are important. Without them, workers don't know how to determine what "clean" and "safe" actually mean. Know your company's standards so you know what is expected when it comes to safety.

Clean Up Your Act

Dirty and cluttered workspaces can have employees tripping all over them-

selves. Slipping on dirty or oily floors, tripping over boxes, trash or improperly stored materials or falling objects that have been left in walkways or emergency exits can cause serious injury. Pay attention to housekeeping issues and keep your workplace clean.

Magic Carpet Ride: Make sure rugs, mats, or other floor coverings are anchored and have no loose or curled up corners that could lead to tripping.

Slippery When Wet: Oily spills or other slippery surfaces create a sure falling zone. Clean up spills as soon as they happen.

Take out the Papers and The Trash: Keep clutter to a minimum. Clutter just causes more clutter and the more it grows, the more likely it will cause someone to trip or fall.

Clearing the Way

Poorly lit hallways, parking lots or storage rooms pose all sorts of hazards. Icy walkways, uncovered pits or manholes, poorly maintained parking areas and slippery entrances can lead to dangerous slip and fall accidents. Keep high-traffic areas slip-free and well-lit.

Come Rain or Shine: Parking areas, sidewalks, entryways, and other areas affected by the weather, need to be regularly maintained. Water in entryways can make floors slippery. Icy and snow-covered sidewalks, parking lots and walkways must be kept clear. Workers should not be able to ice skate on their way to work.

Shedding Some Light: Dimly lit work areas and poor visibility can lead to falls. Don't keep yourself in the dark at work. Change burned out light bulbs, and keep walkways clear of clutter that can prohibit vision.

Down the Rabbit Hole: Manholes, pits or shafts must always be covered, or conspicuously marked, to prevent falls. Avoid giving yourself the shaft.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the Connection. To submit articles and/or topic ideas, please call: (269) 629-9708 or send to P.O. Box 460, Richland, Mi 49083. Also visit our website at: www.CLS-Skilledlabor.com