

Dell Children's Is World's First Platinum-Designated Hospital

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by: Heartbeat Staff



It's official! Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas has become the first hospital in the world to receive the LEED (Leadership in Environmental Energy & Design) Platinum designation from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"Even before the first plans were drawn up, we set our sights on creating a world-class children's hospital, and becoming the first LEED Platinum hospital in the world was definitely part of that," said Bob Bonar, president and CEO of Dell Children's. "Our motivation to pursue LEED Platinum was not just environmental. Being a 'green' hospital has a profound, measureable effect on healing. What's good for the environment and good for our Mueller neighbors is also good for our patients."

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported the Platinum designation on the front page of the Jan. 8 Metro section.

To achieve LEED certification, buildings are rated in five key areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Listed below are some of the Dell Children's facility accomplishments in each LEED category:

Sustainable Site

- 47,000 tons of Mueller airport runway material was reused on the site
- About 40 percent of fly ash instead of Portland cement used in the concrete mix yielded a drop in carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to taking 450 cars off the road annually
- Courtyards provide light to interior spaces on every floor; courtyard air intakes provide cooler air than rooftop intakes for air conditioning
- 92 percent of construction waste was recycled on site

Water Efficiency and Water Conservation

- Reclaimed water is used for irrigation; xeriscaped landscaping uses native plants that require less water
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures

Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation

- Efficiency measures save enough power to fuel about 1,800 homes
- An on-site natural gas turbine supplies all electricity, 75 percent more efficient than coal-fired plants; links to the municipal grid and an emergency generator provide backup
- Converted steam energy from a heating/cooling plant supplies all chilled water needs
- Under-floor air distribution in non-clinical, non-patient areas requires less fan power than above-ceiling ducts
- Parking lot trees and reflective surface pavement and roof materials reduce the heat-island effect

Indoor Environmental Quality and Lighting

- Most interior spaces are within 32 feet of a window
- Motion and natural light sensors shut off unneeded lights

Conservation of Materials and Resources

- Use of local and regional materials saves fuel for shipping
- Special paints and flooring emit low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

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Raising funds to support Dell Children's Medical Center, a member of the Seton Family of Hospitals

Courtesy of JB Goodwin