



LEED  
@  
R&R



# Greening our workplace

August 2012 • A DNREC Green Group Project

## Your participation is important!

Several of your co-workers are already engaged in a year-long project to achieve LEED certification for the R&R Building. This means systematic improvement in many LEED categories, including Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality. Plus we have the opportunity to earn credits for innovations such as bird collision deterrence. The project should conclude in June 2013.

We will be looking at improving a number of practices, from cleaning to commuting to building systems and our grounds. Many of the changes require significant investments (*see other side*), but just as many require communication and partnership with the DNREC employees who work in this building.

We will be asking periodically for your opinions, beginning with two separate surveys -- one on occupant comfort and one on commuting practices -- beginning in September.



Projects such as the recent installation of a rain garden will help achieve LEED certification for R&R.

**The purpose of this monthly LEED Letter is to improve efforts to communicate with R&R employees about planned energy-efficiency projects and our LEED certification efforts.**

## What does LEED-Certified Mean?

LEED stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” and represents several sets of internationally recognized standards for green buildings, homes, schools, interiors, health care facilities and developments. They were developed and are being continuously updated by the US Green Building Council.

The Richardson and Robbins Building, along with the Carvel Building in Wilmington, is seeking to be certified in the **LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance** rating system.

The Governor’s Executive Order 18, “*Leading by Example Towards a Clean Energy Economy and Sustainable Natural Environment*,” recognizes and requires sustainable building practices, including LEED.

A building can be certified silver, gold or platinum depending on the number of credits achieved. The R&R LEED project is seeking a Gold certification.

**Other side:**

- Who is on the LEED team?
- Improving energy efficiency here
- How green is our commute?

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# Ameresco partnering with state to save energy, dollars

Over the next several months, a number of projects - some very visible and some almost invisible - will dramatically improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of our workplace here at the Richardson and Robbins Building.

Lighting and water efficiency improvements (in restrooms) are already completed, and we realized we needed to get ahead of these planned projects with proactive communication.

The State of Delaware selected Ameresco through a competitive bid process to provide energy services and savings over a 20-year term for the Carvel Building and the Richardson and Robbins (R&R) Building Complex. The project combines the energy



conservation measures from both buildings and leverages the savings into broad comprehensive measures.

The selected conservation measures in the R&R Building will impact 166,400 square feet of space and include improvements to the lighting and controls, HVAC, cooling tower, ventilation, fume hoods, transformers, water systems, building envelope (including the roof), and the energy management system. Upon completion, the project is expected to assist the R&R Building in achieving LEED for Existing Build-

ings and EnergyStar® Certification.

The project at the R&R Building is expected to reduce emissions by over 7.2 million pounds of CO2 per year, which is equivalent to removing about 860 cars from Delaware's roads or enough power for nearly 340 homes annually.

Project costs for the R&R Building are approximately \$2.5 million, and annual savings are expected to be over \$304,000 for a 34% energy cost savings. Finally, the project, which utilizes 100% Delaware labor and 85% Delaware produced equipment and services, is expected to create or sustain about 45 Delaware jobs.

## How green is my commute?

How we commute to work will be one significant focus of the LEED project. We should do well in that category; any alternative to one employee commuting alone in a conventional vehicle helps us amass several LEED credits.

Alternatives would include walking, biking, taking the bus, car- and van-pooling, driving a "green" car, telecommuting or participating in an Alternative Work Schedule.

You don't have to own a hybrid to have a car that is considered "green" by LEED standards. Go to [www.greencars.org](http://www.greencars.org): Any car that scores 40 or more qualifies as a green car. That includes several models of non-hybrid VWs, Toyotas, Hondas, the Ford Focus, Mini Co-

per, many Mazdas, the Chevy Cruze - it's a long list.

Under consideration are expanding preferred parking for employees who car pool and/or drive "green" cars; a "green commute" week to help employees understand the savings involved in car- and van-pooling; and other incentives to promote alternative commuting.

**We will conduct a baseline survey in September** to assess what percentage of R&R employees already engage in alternative commuting. Then, with your suggestions, we will design a program that will improve on that percentage.



The Ford Focus (manual) is one of hundreds of models recognized as green by LEED.

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**The  
DNREC  
LEED  
team**

Your co-workers on the LEED project include several members of DNREC's Green Group and represent every division.

### Members are:

- Lara Allison, Watershed
- Jennifer DeMooy, Energy & Climate
- Sara Esposito, LEED-AP, Watershed
- Valerie Gray, Air Quality
- Katie Huegel, Energy & Climate
- Lyle Jones, Watershed
- Cara Lampton, Energy & Climate
- Don Long, Waste & Hazardous Substances
- Bill Miller, Waste & Hazardous Substances
- Patty Murray, Water
- Elena Stewart, Parks
- Brittany Sturgis, Watershed
- Ed Synoski, Energy & Climate
- Bahareh Van Boekhold, LEED-AP, Energy & Climate
- Lee Ann Walling, LEED Green Associate, Energy & Climate
- Jennifer Walls, Watershed
- Phil Wheeler, Air Quality

If you would like to know more or join the group, contact Lee Ann Walling.