

Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Spirit 1 : LEED Certification

Psalm 24:1 "The earth belongs to the Lord, and everything in it, the world and all its people."

As stewards of our planet's resources we have been entrusted with their wise use. Seeking LEED Certification is an acknowledgement of our stewardship responsibilities. Achievement of certification will be the expression of good stewardship practices.

What is LEED? LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a program which establishes a consistent measurement of a buildings energy use and its impact on the environment.

The LEED program offers four levels of achievement; certified, silver, gold and platinum. We are pursuing certification for Spirit 1. There are no LEED NC 2.2 church projects currently certified in the USGBC database. The Spirit 1 project may be the first church in the State of Kentucky to achieve certification under LEED NC 2.2.

Our effort will put into practice approaches to design, construction, and operations that save and optimize our use of resources. These resources include our building site as well as the energy, water, and materials we use. We will emphasize the air quality of our facility. Finally, we will also advance several design innovations.

LEED Categories and Credits

Sustainable sites

- Prevention of environmental pollution from construction practices.
- Alternative transportation practices: encourage and facilitate car & van pooling, fuel-efficient vehicles, and bicycles.
- Storm water management to limit damage to natural hydrology and reduce water pollution
- Reduction of heat islands to minimize impact on microclimate and habitats.

Water

- Water efficient landscaping to eliminate the use of potable water for irrigation.
- Water use reduction to reduce the burden on municipal systems.

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Energy and atmosphere

- Commissioning of buildings systems to verify that they perform as designed.
- Optimize energy performance to reduce the environmental and economic impact of energy use.
- Use of environmentally friendly refrigerants to reduce ozone depletion.
- Green power practices to encourage its development and use.

Materials

- Recycling to reduce the use of virgin materials.
- Construction waste management to divert materials from disposal back to the manufacturing process.
- Use of regional materials to reduce the environmental and economic impacts resulting from transportation.
- Use of certified woods to encourage environmentally responsible forest management.

Indoor air quality

- Indoor air quality standards to enhance its quality.
- Elimination of tobacco smoke from facilities.
- Air quality management during construction to sustain the well-being of workers and occupants.
- Low-emitting materials use to reduce indoor air contaminants.
- Indoor chemical & pollution control to minimize exposure to hazardous pollutants.
- Control of systems to promote the productivity, comfort and well-being of occupants.
- Daylighting to provide occupants with a connection to the outdoors and to reduce the energy use for lighting.

Innovation in design

- Education: The Sustain the Spirit of Stewardship program will educate the catholic community at Holy Spirit Parish and St. Joseph Catholic School about "Green" practices and their implementation in the Spirit 1 project. This program will be funded by a grant from the EPA, in conjunction with WKU.
- Operations manual detailing the use and maintenance of building systems.
- Use of LEED accredited professional as administrator of the project.