



Get YOUR Green On

Volume 1, Issue 5

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MLK Park Shelter

Saving Green

Have a home energy audit conducted. The audit will list out the actions you could take to reduce your energy consumption. Mid American Electric has a program that you can sign up for as a customer. A rebate for work you complete from the audit may be available.

TURN IT OFF!!!
Unplug your cell phone and laptop chargers or any other devices you do not continually use. When they are plugged in, they are drawing a small amount of electricity.

Same goes for lights. **TURN THEM OFF** when they are not necessary.

The City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Shelter and Congregate Meal Site located at 1520 E. Garfield has recently been awarded LEED Certified Certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED stands for *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* and the certification means that the MLK Shelter meets green building certified standards.

Building and certifying a green building starts at the initial stage of design and continues after the building is occupied. After construction documents are completed but prior to construction, the plans are sent to the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) for a design review by third party technical reviewers. Once construction is complete, more information is sent to the GBCI for a final review and certification.

What makes this building green? It's not green paint or lots and lots of plants. A building that reduces its use of energy, materials, potentially harmful chemicals, water use and impact on the land around the building may be considered "green."

During the design of the shelter building, there

were several decisions made, about where it would be built, what landscaping materials would be used, the size it would be, what materials would be used for the structure and the walls, how to keep the building warm and cool, how to properly ventilate and how to provide light and other choices that impact efficiency and conservation.

Construction also has a role in making the building green. The contractor was able to recycle over 90% of construction waste and site debris. Site waste was nearly eliminated because the asphalt from the demolition of the tennis court and existing paving was reused on-site as a base for the new parking lot. Limiting the area that the contractor could use helped prevent compaction of the soil, which inhibits plant growth.

Of all the green features of the shelter building, most notable is the geothermal heating and cooling system. The absorption or rejection of heat into twenty, 200 feet deep wells greatly reduces the need for the mechanical equipment to heat

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Conserve and Protect YOUR Water

Jurdy Green™



Don't let water run when brushing your teeth or washing your face. Water is treated for our consumption. The treatment processes require the use of energy and chemicals. By not wasting water in our daily activities, we conserve resources.

Take shorter showers and not as hot. Again, it takes resources to treat the water for our use. Additionally, hot

water has the added cost of heating it up with either electricity or natural gas.

Add low-flow aerators to your kitchen, bathroom and shower. An aerator reduces the total quantity of water coming out of the faucet.

Dispose of your products safely. Don't pour household toxics such as oil, paint, pesticides and other similar precuts down the drain. These can cause problems

at the wastewater treatment plant. If you pour toxics down a storm drain it may find its way directly into the river. If this occurs, direct harm to the ecosystem can result.

As with toxic products, do not flush unused medications, over the counter or prescription, down the drain.

With a little change in your habits, you can save some money as well as the environment.

MLK Shelter (continued from page 1)



From outside, you cannot tell the building is a LEED certified building, nor on the inside.

To know if you have a vehicle that can be parked in this space, there should be a sticker on the vehicle with ULEV, SULEV or PLEV. These cars meet the standard for efficiency.



cold air or cool hot air. The closer the temperature of the air going into the equipment to the air going into the building spaces, the less energy it takes to increase or decrease the air temperature.

LEED requires that the building's energy use be reduced by a minimum 10% when compared to a building designed to meet basic energy code requirements. During design, the engineer estimated the energy use in the shelter building would be lowered by 32%. After a year of operation, the building energy

use was calculated. Based on utility bills, the shelter building is using 44% less energy than an energy code compliant building.

MLK is a great example of what a successful green building is supposed to do.

Feel free to email YOUR green ideas to: rawetmore@dmgov.org