

KENNEDY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

LEED Gold for Community Focused School

Largest School District in Central Minnesota

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2005, a committee was formed to develop a long-range plan for the St. Cloud Area School District 742 facilities. The 24-member committee consisted of community members, city officials, school administrators, school board members, teachers and parents. As a result of this plan, an area of rapid growth in the school district was identified. The existing site and facilities could not be expanded.

The decision was made to build a new PK-8 school in St. Joseph, Minnesota, to serve 755 students. Even though the school would be large, the community desired a place that would be family-friendly with the attributes of a smaller school. To accomplish this, the grade levels were separated into three learning communities arranged around a central core.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

Early in the process, the community expressed that a new school should be environmentally responsible and designed with "green" features. The school board and the design team looked at various options for incorporating green design and for ways to demonstrate to the community that the school is meeting the District's goals to operate more efficiently. It was determined that the LEED® certification process would be a good tool to communicate the school board's intent to design a sustainable school.

The facility minimizes its impact on the environment through several site-related measures, such as an infiltration basin that manages 100% of all on-site storm water. A partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service installed 40 acres of native wildlife habitat on the site that is maintained with the help of the students. Parking is situated so that one impervious surface meets the needs of school and outdoor athletics activities. Wells have been installed to avoid using potable city water to maintain the athletic fields. Water efficiencies have been incorporated into the design of the building to reduce water use by over 30%.

Reduced operating costs are achieved through a geothermal heat pump system using the natural cycles of the earth for heating and cooling, reducing the dependence on fossil fuels. Classroom windows are designed to maximize daylight, with sensors reducing light levels or even turning off the lights when sufficient natural light is available. Tubular skylights are installed in interior corridors, reducing or eliminating the need for artificial lighting of the corridors during the day. Overall, the building uses 39% less energy than the benchmark standards.

Indoor environmental quality is carefully controlled to provide an atmosphere that is healthy and comfortable. A "displacement ventilation" system provides more fresh air and supplies it at a lower velocity to greatly reduce the sound of the ventilation system. Materials selected throughout the school are environmentally sensitive in their make-up. They manufacture and require far lower levels of ongoing maintenance.

Use of the common area spaces by the community is not only possible, but encouraged. A before and after school program run by the Boys & Girls Club uses the cafeteria, gym, and activity room. The District's Community Education program allows for extended use of the gymnasium, fitness, multipurpose room, and an art room. Portions of the school facilities are also available for community groups to rent.

"Our sustainability curriculum spans all grade levels and is embedded in most subjects. We are fortunate to be able to teach sustainability through the use of a green building as the base."

- Diane Moeller, Principal,
Kennedy Community School



Owner: St. Cloud Area School District 742
 Architect: GLTArchitects (GLTA)
 Interior Designer: GLTArchitects (GLTA)
 Landscape Designer: GLTArchitects (GLTA)
 LEED Consultant: GLTArchitects (GLTA)
 Construction Manager: Winkelman Building Corporation
 Civil Engineer: Bogart, Pederson & Associates Inc.
 Structural Engineer: Larson Engineering of Minnesota
 Electrical Engineer: Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc. (KFI)
 Mechanical Engineer: Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc. (KFI)
 Energy Modeling: Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc. (KFI)
 Plumbing Engineer: Karges-Faulconbridge, Inc. (KFI)
 Commissioning Agent: Facility Dynamics
 Food Service Designer: Dennis Hahn & Associates

Photographs Courtesy of: Paul Crosby
Architectural Photography



Minnesota

The Minnesota Chapter is an active and thriving organization intent on transforming the State's built environment. The Chapter has grown to become a leading regional catalyst for the acceptance and adoption of green building practices, technologies, policies and standards.
www.usgbcmn.org

CHAPTER PROJECT PROFILE



**KENNEDY COMMUNITY
SCHOOL
ST. JOSEPH, MN**

100% Management of On-Site
Storm Water

78% Construction Waste Diverted
from Landfills

39% Reduction in Energy Use

LEED® Facts Kennedy Community School St. Joseph, MN

LEED for Schools v2.0
Certification awarded April 2010

Gold 45*

Sustainable Sites 10/16

Water Efficiency 3/7

Energy & Atmosphere 11/17

Materials & Resources 3/13

Indoor Environmental
Quality 15/21

Innovation & Design 3/6

*Out of a possible 80 points

The information provided is a report on the status of the LEED® School
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guarantee of the information. LEED® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED® is a
certification program that recognizes buildings, homes, and neighborhoods that meet high standards for
energy efficiency and sustainable results. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

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