



THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

certifies



MONONA TERRACE



the first LEED-EB Silver Convention Center in the U.S.

Mononaterrace.com

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center is dedicated to sustainable efforts and environmentally responsible business practices. By taking action to create and operate a greener facility, Monona Terrace earned LEED-EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings) certification at the silver level from the U.S. Green Building Council in 2007.

LEED-EB is a nationally accepted benchmark for environmentally friendly, energy-efficient operations and maintenance in existing buildings. Monona Terrace is the first convention center in the country to earn silver certification.

“We are extremely proud of this achievement and pleased to offer an environmentally responsible, healthy facility,” said Jeff Griffith, building maintenance supervisor at Monona Terrace. “It has been a challenge, but the rewards outweigh the effort.”

The process begins

Monona Terrace began working toward LEED certification by establishing a project team – individuals from the community with backgrounds ranging from engineering and energy to education and the environment. This group of experts helped guide the entire process.

LEED encourages a whole-building approach to sustainability. It recognizes exceptional performance in five categories of human and environmental health:

- Site development.
- Water efficiency.
- Energy use and atmosphere.
- Materials and resources.
- Indoor environmental quality.

“We asked MGE to be part of our team right away,” Griffith said. “From past experience, we knew they would be a valuable partner that could provide direction and contribute to the process.”

For two years, the LEED certification team reviewed operations, modified processes and implemented green programs throughout the 300,000-square-foot facility.

“We learned we were doing very well in several areas like energy usage and energy management – using 49% less energy than convention centers in similar climactic regions,” Griffith said. “MGE has helped us with energy efficiency efforts since we opened our doors in 1997.”

Monona Terrace also identified improvements that needed to be made in its recycling and materials procedures before LEED-EB certification would be possible.

“We refined our recycling practices and went from recycling 16% of our total solid waste to about 49%,” Griffith said.

Monona Terrace also implemented a green purchasing program and a green cleaning program to help ensure environmentally friendly products are bought and used at the facility. Nontoxic “green cleaning” products benefit the health of the environment as well as the health of employees and visitors at Monona Terrace.

A worthwhile investment

Monona Terrace invested about \$60,000 in its quest for LEED-EB certification. Expenses included LEED administrative fees, engineering costs and building retrofits to meet the LEED-EB requirements.

“We have already achieved payback. Our green efforts are attracting new conferences to our facility,” Griffith said. “In addition to having a healthy, resource-efficient convention center, our LEED-EB certification is serving as an effective marketing tool, appealing to environmentally sensitive groups.”



Monona Terrace rooftop at night

As part of its commitment to the environment, Monona Terrace participates in MGE's Green Power Tomorrow program. The convention center purchases 36% of its electricity from renewable sources like wind and customer-owned solar electric systems.

“We are careful about the money we spend but realize processes need continual improvement,” Griffith said. “We need to spend to improve efficiency and save money. Going through the LEED process gave us a roadmap for efficiently addressing future improvements.”

Interested in building green?

LEED certification programs are available for new commercial construction and major renovation projects, existing building operations and maintenance, commercial interior projects, and core and shell development projects. If you would like to learn more about LEED certification or green building techniques, MGE's certified professional staff can help.

“We understand LEED standards and are well prepared to help plan or update your facility design,” said Scott Olsen, MGE senior engineer and LEED-accredited professional. “We can recommend energy-efficient building techniques and equipment that will help meet LEED requirements and grow your bottom line.”

Visit mge.com/ecodev/howhelp/green.htm for more about how MGE can help incorporate green building strategies and materials in your next project.

