

Green Building Efforts in Cambridge

Green Building efforts are underway in Cambridge in both the public and private sectors. The efforts focus on increasing energy efficiency of buildings, using renewable energy, improving indoor environmental quality, promoting sustainable site development (i.e., brownfields redevelopment, alternative transportation), and waste reduction.

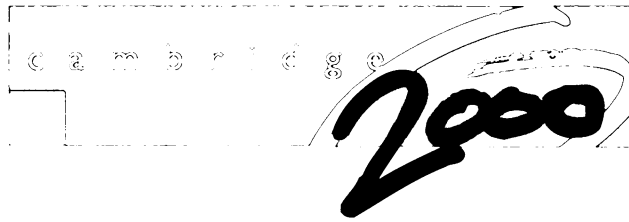
The City's efforts include:

- Retrofitting existing City buildings, including schools, with efficient lighting and other measures to reduce electrical demand through the EPA Greenlights Program. Phase I of the program reduced annual electricity use by 3,502,495 kilowatt-hours (KWH). Phase II, which is nearing completion, will save an additional 1,502,736 KWH. Upon completion, this program will reduce the City's electrical consumption by 5,005,231 KWH and save \$470,850 in annual operating costs.
- Recycling facilities are provided in all City buildings for paper and containers.
- The City has a policy of only purchasing paper with recycled content. An award was given to the City for its policy by the state Environmental Procurement Program in October 1998.
- City bicycles are distributed in various departments for short range trips.
- The recently appointed Climate Protection Task Force will evaluate options for advancing green building efforts in Cambridge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City is evaluating the U.S. Greenbuilding Council LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) rating system for green buildings for possible adoption (Seattle, Washington; Arlington County, Virginia; and the U.S. Navy have adopted the system). A staff meeting will be held in September to hear a presentation on the rating system and its application to local projects.
- Staff have been sent to greenbuilding conferences and training including the Building Green Symposium at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, May 2000; the Cambridge Center for Adult Education's "Climate Protection: What You and U.S. Cities Can Do" conference, May, 2000; and the Building Green Developments symposium at the MIT Center for Real Estate in July, 2000.
- The City is working with developers to encourage green buildings. Plans are being developed for a major commercial green building in East Cambridge and a commercial building in North Cambridge which will utilize building-integrated photovoltaic panels.

Private sector examples of green building in Cambridge include:

- MIT's Stata Center on Vassar Street will be the first green building which utilized the LEED rating system.
- The Cambridge Co-Housing project on Richdale Avenue incorporated many green features including a groundsource heat pump system and sustainable building materials. The project was recognized by the American Institute of Architects for its efforts.
- The Porter Square Shopping Plaza was renovated by Gravestar, Inc. to include a 20 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system and a graywater irrigation system.

31.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

July 31, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-28, regarding a report on accomplishing the construction of environmentally friendly City building projects, please be advised of the following:

The City will incorporate the principals of "green building" construction in the design of a new main library and require architects who seek to design that building to be qualified to do so.

In addition, the attached information indicates staff efforts to learn and use the techniques to make all City's building projects more environmentally friendly.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Consent Agenda #31

5231

Relative to AW #00-28, regarding
a report on accomplishing
the construction of environmentally
friendly City building projects.

In City Council July 31, 2000

Referred to

Health + Environment +

Public Facilities, Art + Celebration
on motion of Councillore Born

sent to H. Davis + K. Born
on 8/2/00