

Title: Canmore Civic Centre Earns Alberta Their First LEED Silver

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The Canmore Civic Centre is a multi-purpose focal point for the Town of Canmore, located in the spectacular Rocky Mountains. It serves as the Town Hall, the municipal government offices, council chambers, and the new Canmore Museum and GeoScience Centre. In total, the Centre is a 2-storey, 25 000ft² building designed with an extensive sustainable mandate following the strong environmental attitudes rampant among the inhabitants of this beautiful town.

Keen Engineering served as the both mechanical and electrical consultant working closely with Marshall Tittermore Architects and the design team to deliver a fully integrated, sustainable facility that would meet or exceed the Town's needs. The client's natural green attitude made Keen the obvious choice to 'green' the project.

The project's goal was to design an advanced facility that promoted environmental stewardship by maximizing energy efficiency, reducing water consumption and providing a healthy interior. After the project commenced, a unanimous decision was reached to strive for a LEED Silver Certification. Remarkably, this did not increase the pre-set budget or affect the completion date.

In addition to considering orientation, massing, construction and sustainable transportation measures, a variety of green strategies were employed. The extensive use of low flow plumbing fixtures reduced building water consumption by approximately 55% compared to a standard building. High efficiency condensing boilers, exhaust/supply air heat recovery, occupancy sensors, daylighting and natural ventilation all contributed to maximizing energy efficiency, while delivering top indoor air quality.

Overall, building energy performance has been confirmed to be 40.4% better than the baseline building represented by the Canadian Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNEBC) and has also exceeded the Commercial Building Incentive Program's requirements (CBIP). The use of the Town's potable water system for building cooling avoids mechanical refrigeration and the environmental damage linked to CFCs. Furthermore, indoor air quality management plans were drawn up and effectively implemented to maintain a superior healthy environment for building occupants.

The resultant facility serves as an example for the rest of the province demonstrating the relative ease of going green and the associated benefits, both short and long term. Furthermore, Canmore Civic Centre has been recognized by many for its outstanding sustainable design, receiving the 2004 Award for Alberta's Construction Project of the Year by Alberta Construction Magazine and the Consulting Engineers of Alberta Award of Merit for its innovative environmental design in the building engineering category.