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For Immediate Release

Taking the LEED in Green Science

The New Connecticut Science Center Officially Receives Gold-Level LEED Certification



Hartford, Connecticut (April 26, 2010) – From the subterranean soil below to the signature “magic carpet” roof above, the new Connecticut Science Center has been designed and built with the environment in mind. The Science Center was formally designated a GOLD level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified “green” building today, placing the Hartford venue in the top tier of environmentally-designed and operating structures in the country.

The process for obtaining the certification is based on earning points for various environment aspects from pre-construction phases through ongoing operations. Groundbreaking took place for the Connecticut Science Center in October 2005, with completion and formal opening in June 2009.

“Having a facility that makes a minimal impact on the surrounding environment was one of our main goals in the construction of the Connecticut Science Center”, said Matt Fleury, President and CEO

of the interactive learning destination. In December 2009, the Connecticut Science Center became the first science center or museum in the nation to generate the majority of its power onsite using a hydrogen fuel cell made by UTC Power, a division of United Technologies.

To become LEED-certified, a building must acquire a certain number of points on environmental elements such as Sustainable Building Site, Water Efficiency, Optimized Energy Performance, Materials Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation & Design and others. The points are then tallied and certification is designated based on the number accumulated. The Connecticut Science Center scored 43 points out of a possible 69, achieving a Gold Rating for new construction.

While a “green” building will have a minimal impact on its surrounding environment, there are two main advantages of having a LEED building, according to LEED Accredited Professionals. First, a LEED certified building will generally have lower energy usage: It costs less to heat/cool a LEED building because of the way they’re designed; about 75% of all LEED-certified buildings consume less energy than a traditional building. Secondly, a number of studies have shown that people who work or live in LEED buildings are actually healthier—it’s about the simple health and welfare of its occupants.

The LEED Gold Certification was the culmination of a week of earth-related events that have occurred dedicated to "Going Green in the 21st Century". As part of the celebration of both Earth Week and the LEED certification achievement, the Science Center developed a "Green Walking Tour", which highlighted the award-winning environmental aspects of the facilities. In addition, the onsite hands-on LIVE Gallery Science program engaged visitors in activities and demonstrations that address the core issues of climate change, energy, recycling and waste reduction, sustainable development, water quality, food and agriculture, and the green economy. Finally **Keep Connecticut Cool**, a student challenge hosted by Clean Air-Cool Planet and administered by the Institute for Sustainable Energy from Eastern Connecticut State University, showcased the next generation of young minds dedicated to environmental solutions in science.

About the Connecticut Science Center:

The LEED Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Visitors experience over 150 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events and lectures for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. For more information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

Reference: US Green Building Council (<http://www.usgbc.org>)