



Press Release

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Meyer Najem Assumes the LEED and Takes the Gold for the Community Hospital South Emergency Department Addition & Renovation Project

(Fishers, IN) October 8, 2008 - The Community Hospital South Emergency Department Addition and Renovation project has been Gold Certified by Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED), coordinated by the U.S. Green Building Council. The emergency department project expanded the ER from 11,000 to 30,000 SF, and its 15 semi-private patient rooms were replaced by 26 private rooms equipped with the most advanced emergency technology.

Opened in August 2007, the Emergency Department was designed from the start to be environmentally friendly to the people visiting and working inside. Because of the numerous environmental considerations that were part of its design, the construction team, architect and owners chose to go for LEED Gold Certification. LEED certification requires a team effort from the initial design phase through construction and cleanup; Meyer Najem worked closely with all of its team members to make LEED certification possible.

The goal was twofold: to create a healthier indoor setting and to reduce the facility's ecological footprint on the environment. To accomplish this, energy-efficient features were implemented, focusing on using less energy and water, resulting in overall energy savings of 20 percent.

To reduce the amount of energy needed to cool the building, a white pliable roof was installed to reflect rather than absorb heat. Also, advanced and efficient equipment combined with better insulation avoids the use of ozone-depleting refrigerants, reduces the amount of heat released into the environment, and reduces energy costs.

Energy costs were also curtailed through the greater use of natural daylight. In addition, sensors were installed to ensure that lights are turned on only when necessary.

Building components also included infrared-controlled plumbing fixtures to use less water, and the landscaping uses native plants which require no watering. Storm water is now cleaned by filters before being drained from the property.

The internal environment was addressed as well the external environment. Special paints, construction materials, carpeting and adhesives that have lower chemical emissions were used to improve internal air quality.

To reduce transportation costs and support local economies, the entry structure, glass "curtain wall," brick, steel, concrete, hardwood veneers, casework and other materials were manufactured less than 500 miles away. Not only are there installations of more environmentally friendly fixtures, but more than 10 percent of the construction products were created from recycled materials, including components of the foundation made from recycled roadbed. Veneers on the wood doors were obtained from sustainable forests. Also, more than half of the construction waste was recycled.

The Meyer Najem team along with Schmidt & Associates Architects efforts ensured that the Community Hospital South Emergency Department will not only welcome patients, visitors, and employees to a state-of-the-art facility, but is also considerate of the environment, contributing to a better, cleaner world.