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## APS Learning Center earns LEED certification

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Buildings that have earned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification offer healthier environments for their occupants by reducing energy and water use, promoting day lighting and recycling, and diminishing carbon footprints. Attaining LEED certification is a rigorous process that demonstrates a firm commitment to sustainability.



APS recently became the first Arizona company to earn LEED certification for as many as four facilities. The APS Learning Center, located near CHQ in downtown Phoenix, received certification as a

Silver LEED-CI facility for commercial interiors. This LEED designation is awarded for commercial interiors remodeled by tenants to LEED standards.

"Earning LEED certification is about supporting our corporate sustainability culture and feeling good about what we're doing as a company," **Art Greeley**, Section Leader, Facilities Management, said.

LEED certification reflects the high level of commitment made by APS to its employees, the community and the environment. The U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Green Building Rating System is considered the national benchmark for high-performance green buildings. The only other Arizona institutions that have attained LEED certification for four buildings are Arizona State University and the city of Phoenix.

The 7,800 square-foot APS Learning Center was designed with a variety of employee-friendly and environmentally conscious features, including:

- Energy-efficient lighting reduces energy 35 percent from standard fixtures. Sensors control the lighting to ensure energy is not being wasted when rooms are not being used.
- More than 90 percent of equipment and appliances are Energy Star rated. This includes LCD televisions, laser printers, notebook PCs, monitors, photocopier and refrigerator.
- Paints have no volatile organic compounds (VOC), wall studs have 25 percent recycled content and gypsum wall boards have 4 percent recycled content.



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- All carpeting has 45 percent recycled content.
- All tables and system furniture is Greenguard-certified and average 40 percent recycled content.
- Waterless urinals, low-flow faucets and dual-flush toilets reduce water consumption by 44 percent.
- All wood used in furniture is 100 percent recycled.
- A high-efficiency HVAC system exceeds standard SEER ratings and features economizers that use available outside air for cooling/heating.
- Collection containers throughout the facility allow employees to recycle paper, cardboard, metal, plastic and glass.

"LEED certification is a symbol of leadership in energy and environmental design, but it's really about creating a sustainable environment that supports us as human beings where we live and work," Greeley said.

The Learning Center reinforces the leadership position in creating green workplaces that APS has established in Arizona. It joins three other APS facilities with LEED credentials. The APS Service Centers in [Flagstaff](#) and [Wickenburg](#) are the only two buildings in the state that have attained Silver LEED-EB Certifications for existing buildings being operated and maintained to LEED standards. And the [Ocotillo Service Center](#) has earned LEED-NC certification for new construction.

Many of the environmentally friendly and cost-efficient practices used in adapting the APS Learning Center as well as the Flagstaff and Wickenburg facilities to LEED standards have been extended to other buildings throughout the company. This includes standardizing equipment and lighting, as well as design, procurement and maintenance processes, to LEED specifications.

The company is also in the process of seeking an Energy Star rating for CHQ. Future plans call for earning LEED-EB certification for existing buildings for CHQ.

"LEED certification is much more than recycling and saving energy," Greeley said. "It deals with indoor air quality, natural lighting, ventilation, water conservation and the products used in the building. The bottom line is that LEED is about sustainability."



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