

Case Study

Chicago Center for Green Technology

Chicago Center for Green Technology was the third building in the United States to be certified LEED® Platinum according to the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system using the highest standards of green technology available. Home to organizations and businesses committed to the environment, the Center is open for visitors to explore and learn how to incorporate environmentally friendly, cost-saving features into their home or business.



Chicago Center for Green Technology

Location 445 North Sacramento Avenue, Chicago, Illinois USA

Number of People Served 30 employees, 20,000 visitors annually

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The need

You've come a long way, baby! During the 2007 Greenbuild International Conference & Expo in Chicago, the Green Tech Resource Center was recognized as the annual Legacy Project – a lasting resource for communities across Chicago to help support and guide green and sustainable building projects. Just a decade ago, who would have thought it possible? Faced with a business that dumped illegally and left rubble and demolition debris piled 70 feet high – well beyond the scope of its permit – the Chicago Department of Environment took ownership of and cleaned up a 17-acre brownfield. After recycling much of the 600,000 tons of concrete for projects like the parking garage foundation of Millennium Park, the city was left with a clean site and a vacant building at 445 North Sacramento Avenue. From these environmentally conscious roots, today's Chicago Center for Green Technology became a reality. In 2007, the Center celebrated its fifth anniversary by cutting the "green" ribbon on a newly completed expansion and office renovation project. A total of 2,560 square feet were added to this LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified training facility and resource center, which is dedicated to sustainable design. A "greenprint" has been developed to expand the popular facility another 910 square feet in the near future, giving people more area for much-needed office space.

The izzy+ solution

How do you furnish this high-profile, LEED-certified facility? With alternative office furniture and high-recycled content seating from izzydesign, of course. Sustainability is standard operating procedure at izzy, where all product lines are GREENGUARD certified for safe indoor air quality. izzy products selected for the Center include new Audrey mix-and-match storage and display cabinets for the library, as well as award-winning Jack flip-top tables and HÅG Conventio Wing "rocking" chairs for the training room. These products made their debut during the Greenbuild conference, as lines of people toured the renovated facility for tips on what it means to live and work in ways that are friendlier to our environment.

Meghann Maves—Resource Librarian: Chicago Department of Environment, Center for Green Technology

"One of the best features of izzydesign is that their products are GREENGUARD certified. There was no 'off-gassing' smell when the furniture arrived here – which was great, because we were just three days away from our ribbon-cutting ceremony! In regards to the design of the furniture, I really like the depth of the Audrey cabinets. There's plenty of room for sample materials and binders, perfect for accommodating the various sizes and formats of literature from different manufacturers. Also, the modular nature of Audrey – the flexibility to arrange and rearrange the different shelving units on the existing bases, combined with varying heights of the units – is terrific. Even though our resource center is a long, narrow space, this is not a solid wall of bookcases. It goes up and down, with peek holes. Visually, it's a nice component to have. I also enjoy the variation of materials – some wood tones, some laminates in grays and yellows. The sustainability of the materials adds depth to the whole product story. We love it. Everyone's been commenting on it, from visitors to building staff. We love our Jack tables in the library, too. I've been demonstrating to people how to easily fold and unfold them. In their folded, nested positions, I envision them as potential goalposts for a future game of chair hockey here in the office."

Chuck Saylor—Founder and President, izzydesign

"We're honored and excited to be part of this dynamic public resource center that is dedicated to LEED standards of excellence in green building practices. Our commitment to the environment starts by making smart choices in materials and processes, and extends to designing products that are simple, flexible and durable. It's all about doing more with less."