

AIA TOP TEN GREEN PROJECTS: LOTT CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

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Photos: Nic Lehoux

The American Institute of Architects (AIA)¹ Committee on the Environment (COTE) has named the year's top ten examples of sustainable architecture and green design². Many of the new buildings have been awarded, or are expected to earn, LEED Platinum certification, the highest level in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program³. The Lott Clean Water Alliance Regional Services Center (Lott Center), located in Olympia, Washington, was one of the projects. The full case study appears on the AIA website <http://aiatopten.org/hpb/overview.cfm?ProjectID=1954>.

¹ American Institute of Architects: For 150 years plus, members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. By using sustainable design practices, materials, and techniques, AIA Architects are uniquely poised to provide the leadership and guidance needed to combat "Climate Change."

² Green Building: A green building is a building located and constructed in a sustainable manner, and allows its occupants to live, work, and play in a sustainable manner. This means building in such a way that we don't use up or deplete our resources; that is, it has the least environmental impact possible. The less the environmental impact, the "greener" the project.

³ Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification measures how well a building or a community performs in the categories of sustainable siting, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design process. LEED certification is obtained after submitting an application documenting compliance with the LEED rating system. LEED certification is granted by the U.S. Green Building Certification Institute.

LEED Certification Classifications:

1. Certified: 40% to 50% of non-innovation points.
2. Silver Certification: 50% - 60% of non-innovation points.
3. Gold: 60 - 80% of non-innovation points.
4. Platinum: 80% or more non-innovation points.

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=222>

The Lott Center is a LEED Platinum certified wastewater treatment plant. It was designed by Miller – Hull Architects, AIA. The contemporary industrial aesthetic was designed to complement its surroundings and the sewerage treatment plant has become the public face of the town of Olympia, Washington.

Lott’s new facility uses reclaimed water, reused water that has been cleaned, for a pond surrounding the center, for irrigating the grounds for the building’s green roof and for toilet flushing. The building reused timbers from a port warehouse that was demolished near the site. Natural light in the offices reduces or eliminates the need for artificial lighting. External louvers control sunlight and minimize solar heat gain reducing the need for air conditioning.



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The Louisiana State Energy Office (SEO) disseminates information about green building and the green building industry. The information includes: articles, facts, products, and applications being proposed, designed and used by the green building industry.