

### THREE FACULTY RESIDENCES WIN GOLD

Three new houses in the Academy's O'Neil Court neighborhood have been awarded LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. Designed by New Hampshire-based TMS Architects, they are the first residences in the state to receive such designation, with only 10 other homes in New Hampshire currently holding this honor.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the council's rating system to determine if a building meets specific sustainable green building criteria. The six major environmental categories that must be satisfied are:

sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design. Silver, gold and platinum levels of LEED certification are awarded based upon points earned within each of these categories.

The reduction of utility energy consumption by 50 percent and elimination of fossil fuels for heating by using geothermal energy pumped from deep wells helped secure the Gold certification for the three PEA residences. Additionally, local building materials and native plants were incorporated into the landscaping, the majority of construction waste was recycled, and a rain garden was installed to capture runoff from hard surfaces like roofs and driveways.

The building materials used in the homes also contributed to the overall sustainability of the project. All three residences feature triple-paned windows, fluorescent lighting, a drain water heat recovery system from showers, heat recovery ventilators to capture and return warm air, and Energy Star appliances.

There is easy access to recycling, and materials with low-to-no volatile organic compounds (VOC)—such as less-polluting paints, caulks and adhesives—have been employed to prevent smog-forming chemical emissions and improve indoor air quality.

The three new LEED-certified units meet the Academy's Environmental Mission Statement, which mandates that PEA "be committed to stewardship of the environment...and value, protect, preserve and replenish natural resources." Awarded a Silver certification, the Phelps Academy Center renovation, completed in 2006, was PEA's first LEED-certified building. ●



*(Above) The Forbes House, located at 42 Court Street, and two other faculty residences were awarded a Gold LEED certificate for their sustainable design and construction. (Left) When possible, local building materials were used in the construction of the faculty residences, and a majority of the construction waste was recycled.*

To learn more about PEA's LEED-certified buildings, visit [www.exeter.edu/GoldLEED](http://www.exeter.edu/GoldLEED).