

ACADEMY CENTER TAKES THE 'LEED'

Environmental sustainability is now a part of Exeter's campus, structurally speaking. For the first time, an Exeter building has been awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver-rating certification. Phelps Academy Center was recognized for meeting objectives in design, construction, promotion of environmental stewardship and energy conservation.

LEED, a program developed and managed by the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org), is a rating system that has become a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. The goal of the program is to encourage structures that are more resource-efficient in their construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition. Buildings are awarded silver, gold or platinum certification, depending upon credits given.

Phelps Academy Center is one of only a few LEED-certified buildings in New Hampshire. Criteria for LEED certification was developed as a goal during the initial design period, in which Centerbrook Architects and Exeter's Academy Center Committee determined how best to convert the former Thompson Science Building, built in 1930, into a campus-wide community center.

During the renovation, 96 percent of waste that was produced was recycled and a portion of that waste was reused onsite. Whenever possible, natural light was incorporated in the building's design to save electricity, and rainwater is collected into a cistern for irrigation. The Academy Center was also recognized for using a higher-than-average amount of building materials manufactured within 500 miles of the site, and for installing a series of educational plaques throughout the building that explain its various green features. The center also was awarded points in the areas of sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy use and atmosphere; materials and resource use; indoor environmental quality; and innovative design process.

"The LEED silver rating for the Academy Center is a continued indicator of Exeter's commitment to environmental stewardship," says Roger Wakeman, Exeter's director of facilities management. "I am proud of our efforts to incorporate sustainable principles into our construction here on campus, and I look forward to doing more of this with ongoing and future construction projects."

Adds assistant principal Tom Hassan '66 (Hon.), '06 (Hon.), who heads the Academy's Environmental Task Force, "Many people—faculty, staff and students—worked on the planning and details that resulted in this LEED certification. The result is a building that is not only friendly to our environment, but is also in and of itself a teaching tool."

—FW



BRIAN CROWLEY

During the renovation of the former Thompson Science Building into Phelps Academy Center, 96 percent of waste that was produced was recycled and a portion of that waste was reused onsite. The Academy Center was also recognized for using a higher-than-average amount of building materials manufactured within 500 miles of the site.



ART DURITY