

Moraine Valley Community College

SOUTHWEST EDUCATION CENTER

17900 S. 94th Ave., Tinley Park
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The Southwest Education Center in Tinley Park is the college's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building and, as such, is recognized for its environmental practices in the areas of energy and water efficiency, indoor environmental quality and overall sustainability. See how we're meeting today's needs without compromising tomorrow's.



SUSTAINABLE SITE

Sustainable elements provide a natural alternative in energy management.

- Reflective white roof cuts energy bills and greenhouse gases.
- Green roof reduces heat (urban heat effect) during warm seasons and cooling during cold seasons, helps to insulate building for sound, and increases the roof's lifespan.
- Bioswale (vegetated open trench) temporarily stores storm water runoff from solid surfaces and, along with detention ponds and porous pavement, protects from flooding.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Features throughout the facility are designed to increase system performance and save money on associated costs.

- The geothermal heat pump transfers heat stored in the earth into the building in the winter and out of the building during summer, a highly efficient renewable energy that can cut our energy usage approximately 35.3 percent compared to conventional systems.
- An EcoSpace Low-Rise elevator uses approximately half the energy of conventional traction machines and is made of 95 percent recyclable materials.
- Daylighting replaces artificial lighting fixtures with natural lighting from windows and external louvers.
- Lighting controls with automatic shutoff include occupancy sensors that can result in approximately 40 percent energy savings.

MATERIAL AND RESOURCES

Materials used in this building are recycled, reused and rapidly renewable.

- Construction materials were recycled to avoid burden on landfills.
- Recycled content in the ceiling tiles and drywall helps improve energy and acoustical performance.
- Rapidly renewable bamboo, incredibly durable and among the most environmentally sensible materials available, was used in the casework.



WATER EFFICIENCY

Using water wisely is vital to conservation of this limited natural resource.

- Native, drought-resistant vegetative trees and ground cover reduces the consumption of water in maintaining the outside landscaping.
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures mean less water waste.



INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Being environmentally responsible means providing a healthy and productive learning atmosphere.

- Recycled and renewable materials chosen for furniture and fabrics are GreenGuard certified, which reduces impact on the indoor air quality.
- Tables and chairs were crafted from recycled aluminum, recycled vehicle seatbelts, and rapidly renewable linoleum. The outdoor benches on the green roof consist of 100 percent recycled plastic.
- Materials such as adhesives, paints, tiles, carpeting, wood products, and cleaning products used in the center contain minimal volatile organic compound (VOC), chemical compounds that can affect the environment and human health.
- Upon completion of construction and prior to occupancy, the center underwent a flush-out that tempered the mechanical system with 100 percent outside air to reduce possible indoor air quality contamination.

