

Green Facts



Benefits

Insurance companies are now offering premium reductions for LEED and Green Globes certified buildings. (*Building Design and Construction, November 2006*)

Daylighting in retail stores has been shown to increase average daily sales by 40%. Energy savings are between \$0.24/s.f. to \$0.66/s.f. (*Building Design and Construction, November 2006*)

If every American home replaced just one light bulb with a [compact fluorescent] bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars. (*www.marshall.org, July 2007 Week 444*)

A ton of recycled paper saves:

- 17 trees (EPA)
- 3 cubic yards of landfill space
- 7000 gallons of water (EPA)
- 4200 kWh of energy (enough to heat a home for half a year)
- 390 gallons of oil
- 60 lbs of air pollutants (Center for Ecological Technology)

(*www.marshall.org, July 2007 Week 444*)

If every Americans' tires were properly inflated it would save more than 4 million gallons of gas a day. (*www.marshall.org, July 2007 Week 444*)

Emissions

In the United States, buildings account for:

- 36% of total energy use / 65% of electricity consumption
- 30% of greenhouse gas emissions
- 30% of raw materials use
- 30% of waste output / 136 million tons annually
- 12% of potable water consumption

(*www.usgbc.org*)

Construction and demolition waste accounts for 25% of municipal solid waste in the U.S. (*Building Design and Construction, November 2006*)



Emissions

Some people estimate that 25% of your energy bill is phantom power - [energy consumed by] all of those appliances that are on, even when they're off. One suggestion is [to] simply [purchase] a power strip that can be turned off and on. [This] could cut your energy bill and save you ... up to 25%. (www.marshall.org, July 2007 Week 444)

Growth

The value of green building construction starts is expected to exceed \$12 billion in 2007. (*McGraw-Hill Construction Analytics*)

The construction market accounts for 14.2% of the \$10 trillion U.S. GDP (*2006 DOE Buildings Energy Databook*)

There are LEED projects in all 50 states [in the U.S.] and 24 countries. (www.usgbc.org)

[As of August 2007], 10,448 [USGBC] member organizations, including corporations, governmental agencies, nonprofits and others [exist] throughout the industry. [In addition], 91,000 [are] actively engaged individuals. (www.usgbc.org)

Since 2000, USGBC's membership has increased ten-fold. (www.usgbc.org)