



Office of Public Affairs & Education
102 Remington St
Fort Collins, CO 80524
Phone: 970 416-2867
Pager 970 494-8015
Fax: 970 416-2809

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Patrick Love

TITLE: *POUDRE FIRE AUTHORITY, STATION 4 CELEBRATES LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION*

Fort Collins, CO –Poudre Fire Authority Fire Station 4 has officially earned LEED® Gold certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute. The new station located at 1945 West Drake Road opened in January of this year to replace an older facility that was originally intended as a temporary location 25 years ago.

The project was able to earn the Gold level of certification through the cooperative effort of the Poudre Fire Authority, Belford Watkins Group Architects, Vesta Design, AE Associates, Drahota Construction, and the Institute for the Built Environment at Colorado State University. Students and staff at the Institute for the Built Environment at Colorado State University were hired to coordinate the LEED certification work, facilitate the project's green design process, and provide research into green building strategies.

Pursuing LEED Gold certification was important to the Poudre Fire Authority to provide a healthy and productive work environment for their firefighters, in addition to achieving energy and resource conservation. Studies have shown that building occupants are healthier and more productive in buildings with adequate daylight and fresh air. The designers of Station 4 used strategically placed windows and light tubes to bring natural lighting into 90% of the spaces regularly used by the administrators and firefighters, and a ventilation system that provides 30% more fresh air than standard systems. Station 4 uses energy efficient light fixtures on the interior and exterior of the station to conserve electricity, including a very innovative LED flagpole light, which lights the United States flag at night but does not contribute to light pollution. The combination of the energy efficiency strategies resulted in a 20% energy cost savings over standard code. Ten percent of materials used in construction of the station contained recycled content and 20% of the materials were harvested and manufactured locally. All of these factors are considered by the Green Building Certification Institute in order to achieve LEED Gold. By setting this standard for the new fire station the Poudre Fire Authority has ensured that the communities we serve have received the best value for their tax dollars.

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