



## Why Build Green?

The benefits of green building are multifaceted. The obvious advantage is environmental. Green building can improve air and water quality, enhance and protect ecosystems, reduce solid waste and conserve natural resources. There are also direct and indirect financial benefits to high performance buildings.

Less toxic materials and improved ventilation lead to healthier employees and therefore less sick days and a possible reduction in healthcare costs. Healthier employees means better quality of life and therefore less turnover. Studies confirm that work environments that with abundant light, efficient ventilation and lower toxicity lead to comfortable more productive occupants.

Direct financial benefits are reduced operating costs. High performance buildings use energy more efficiently and resulting in high ROI. "LEED® certified buildings perform 25-30% better than non-LEED buildings in terms of energy use. Gold and Platinum LEED certified buildings have energy savings approaching 50%." Green building becomes a financial asset to the owners; they have a greater marketing potential and higher lease rates with less tenant turnover.

The benefits of LEED building also extend to the community. Typically, green buildings are a welcome asset to a community because they demonstrate shared values.

**To learn more about the benefits of building green,  
call the Green Building Experts at IMC Construction  
610-889-3600**

1. U.S. EPA Characterization of Construction and Demolition Debris in the United States, 1997 Update.  
2. <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1718>  
3. New Buildings Institute, Energy Performance in LEED® for New Construction Buildings, March 4, 2008

### Simple tips to be greener at work

- 1- Print double sided or better yet, keep it digital.
- 2- Shut down your computer when you leave the office and turn off peripherals like your monitor, speakers and printer.
- 3- When buying copy paper and office supplies, buy recycled with the highest post-consumer content.
- 4- Bring your lunch in reusable containers
- 5- Carpool, ride your bike or use mass transportation to get to work.
- 6- If permitted, work four ten hour days or telecommute.
- 7- Rearrange your work space to take advantage of day-light.
- 8- Encourage your employers to start a recycling program.
- 9- Bring a plate and silverware from home rather than using plastic utensils or paper plates.
- 10- Search Earth911.org to find local places to recycle printer cartages, batteries, cell phones, etc.
- 11- Encourage coworkers to join your effort.