



IFMA Adison Green Corner

Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery/ Morgridge Institute for Research - Green Building Design

By Leah Samson-Samuel, LEED AP

In the spirit of April being the month to celebrate Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery/Morgridge Institute for Research or WID/MIR, I will be reviewing the aspects of green building design that Madison Environmental Group, Inc. was contracted by Findorff|Mortenson to help WID/MIR achieve. This project was new construction but many of the strategies used in this project are applicable to the maintenance and renovation of existing buildings.

Materials and Resources: Building materials were important in the green building design of WID/MIR. Materials that were manufactured with pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled content were selected and tracked. Having recycled content in the building materials helps reduce the amount of virgin materials needed to create these new products. Building materials were also selected to be manufactured and extracted or harvested within 500 miles of the site. This reduced the amount of energy needed to transport the materials from source to end use.

Recycling: WID/MIR recycled 88% of their construction waste throughout the 2 year project. They had separate dumpsters for metal, concrete, trash, and a mixed construction waste dumpster that contained wood, drywall, and cardboard. We found creative places for the waste to go so that it would not be disposed of in a landfill. The wood was reused as mulch. Drywall was used on farms as animal bedding. Cardboard and metal were recycled. Concrete was repurposed as aggregate for road beds.

Indoor Air Quality: The owners of WID/MIR set a goal to provide the occupants with a quality indoor environment. In order to do this an Indoor Air Quality Plan for the construction phase of the project was created. This plan outlined the control of pollutant sources, required good housekeeping, and protection of the HVAC systems from contaminants. Controlling the pollutant sources included using low-emitting materials, not allowing smoking in the building, and protecting the absorptive materials from water damage.

Low emitting materials: Indoor air quality is also affected by the materials used in the building. Materials such as paints, coatings, adhesives, and sealants were selected that have low VOCs (volatile organic compounds). Carpets and composite woods were also selected to limit the off-gassing of harmful chemicals. These strategies discussed above are only part of the overall green building design applied to WID/MIR. Other design components include the sustainability of the site, water efficiency, and energy use.

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Talent Scout Casting Call

We are looking for additional people to help a couple of our Teams. It does not take much time, but I promise you it will be very rewarding!!!

- The following Teams are looking to add people:
- Community Crew** – 2 more members are needed.
 - Member Squad** – Needs some Professional members to join their team.
 - Team PR** – Is looking for 1 more member along with people interested in organizing our 1st Awards Event (sub-committee).
 - News Crew** – 1 more member is needed.

If you have interest in any of these committees, please call Karyn Biller (Talent Scout) at (608) 819-1548. I will help you get on the committee that best fits your talents.