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Green Office goes Double Platinum

Ambient Energy orchestrates LEED® Core & Shell and LEED® for Commercial Interiors

Denver, Colorado, April 27, 2009 — In Motown or Nashville, “Double Platinum” represents adoring fans and millions of records sold. In Golden, Colorado, Double Platinum is the new benchmark for pioneering, earth-friendly building.

Ambient Energy, a Denver-based sustainable consulting firm, orchestrated a team of Colorado companies to a new achievement in green design: the state’s first Double Platinum LEED* Building, only the second such certification in the world.

The Signature Center, a 186,000-square-foot, five-story office building located in Golden, Colorado, is owned and operated by Aardex LLC. In September 2007, the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) certified the building’s core and shell at the Platinum level, the highest mark in the LEED system. Additionally, in March, Aardex’s 13,000 s.f. tenant space received Platinum Certification under the LEED for Commercial Interiors rating system.

“Double Platinum is significant because it sets a new, attainable goal for developers, owners and designers to achieve,” Renée Azerbegi, President of Ambient Energy, said. “By linking an aggressive approach to sustainable design from design through construction and operation, the Signature Center project sets a new benchmark of sustainability for commercial development.”

During the project’s initial programming and design phase, the Aardex team considered pursuing LEED Certified or Silver level, the two lowest levels. Thanks to Ambient Energy’s leadership in LEED facilitation, in addition to the firm’s expertise in daylighting energy modeling, and material selection, Aardex decided that Gold or Platinum ratings were viable options for this project.

During the design process, Ambient Energy worked with the developer and design team to identify and fine tune LEED credit strategies, and provided daylight analysis to reduce the use of electric lighting while providing maximum views. During construction, Ambient Energy visited the site to verify LEED credits were installed and provided field observation reports. Post construction, the firm revised the final energy model submission, and prepared and/or reviewed all LEED credit documentation prior submittal to the U.S. Green Building Council.

To confirm that sustainability and energy efficiency would be carried out beyond the construction phase, Ambient Energy developed a detailed measurement and verification plan. Staff met with the controls contractor to confirm implementation of this plan, and outlined the process and set

point parameters for the building to maximize energy efficiency. Lastly, Ambient Energy drafted tenant environmental guidelines for current and future tenants to adopt.

Sustainable aspects incorporated into the building include:

- Thermal comfort control using under floor air distribution
- Building perimeter conditioned with chilled beams and radiant heaters
- High efficiency lighting controlled by occupancy sensors, dimmable switches, and photosensors
- Purchase of 100% wind based green power
- Building design provides substantial daylight and views for occupants
- Water efficiency plumbing fixtures reducing water usage by 40%
- Sustainable education to the public through tours, presentations, and educational signage
- Selection of local, recycled, sustainably harvested and cutting-edge materials
- Construction waste recycling of 95% for the building core and shell
- Tenant environmental guidelines for current and future tenants

** The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Rating System is a third-party certification system created by the United States Green Building Council.

Ambient Energy is a small, women-owned firm located in Denver's historic Baker Neighborhood. The firm specializes in energy efficiency, daylighting, renewable energy, green materials, and sustainable design services. Ambient Energy portfolio includes libraries, laboratories, courthouses, educational facilities, airports, affordable housing projects, and industrial buildings. For more information please see www.ambient-e.com.

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