

Puyallup leads in LEED development projects

02/16/2009

Source: Business Examiner

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Puyallup is going green and bringing the business community along for the ride.

"The major institutions in the community reflect the desire of the citizens we serve to do better, and set good examples and show people it can be done," Puyallup City Manager Gary McLean, said. "There are good choices you can make for the environment and you can do them economically."

The city is not requiring businesses to get LEED certified or use green products, however, it is just encourages them through its own practices and creation of a \$40 million city hall that has a high environment-friendly, LEED Gold rating.

McLean said Puyallup business people can walk around the city hall and get ideas they can apply to their own facilities.

"Nothing better than a visual example," he said.

Of course, McLean noted there are many important local institutions also setting examples for the entire business community.

MultiCare's Good Samaritan Hospital decided to reach for LEED Silver certification on its new patient tower, which is expected to be finished by 2010. Gaining the high environmental certification will cost the company between \$500,000 and \$1 million, said Good Samaritan President John Long.

"There is no doubt it will be paid back many times over," Long said. "But more importantly, it is the right thing to do for our environment. This is an organization-wide commitment."

Once completed, the tower is scheduled to house a variety of services including a new emergency room, surgical suites, an express services outpatient laboratory, diagnostic imaging, business services, a Starbucks and gift shop, critical care center and intensive care unit, and a medical unit with 40 beds.

"It's a huge undertaking," Long said about the new tower project. "The city staff have been our partners all the way through understanding we want to get LEED certified."

Another big name in the South Sound, The Benaroya Company, is on the way of making "green" footprints in the South Hill area. The developer recently finished the registration process for LEED certification on its South Hill Business & Technology Center.

The company is spending more than \$30 million in numerous interior and exterior improvements to the 92-acre campus that was once a microchip plant.

"It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity," Mark Johnson, Benaroya director of construction, said about the site.

Within South Hill Business & Technology Center, there are different facilities, and Johnson said each of those is its own unique project. One of the buildings will most likely house some type of technology company because the facility's infrastructure is setup for that type of industry.

While the city is supportive of the business trying to get LEED certified, it was strictly a company decision, said Lisa Goodman, Benaroya director of marketing. The developer believes it will be better able to attract future tenants,

if they have green components throughout their facility.

Some of Benaroya's building investments include new building entries and walkways, lobby fireplaces, shell and core upgrades, and new energy efficient HVAC and roofs.

Goodman said the facilities are generally ready to go. Once a tenant signs on for one of the spaces within the Center, all Benaroya would have to do is customize the space according to the tenant's needs.

So, whether it's something in the water or, if it is the city of Puyallup's strong encouragement, McLean said all of these businesses are reflecting the entire community's commitment to a more sustainable and green city.

"It's something the whole city can be proud of," he said.