GREEN BUILDING FACT SHEET

WHAT MAKES THE WEST VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY GREEN?

BUILDING LOCATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT—To encourage use of alternative transportation, West Valley Library is located within 1/4 mile of at least two bus line stops and offers generous bicycle parking areas.

WATER EFFICIENCY—West Valley’s landscaping is drought tolerant and features high-efficiency irrigation controls to reduce water use to 50 percent less than a conventional building.

ENERGY & EMISSIONS—The library uses 30 percent less energy than a comparable standard building. Features that improve energy efficiency include thick concrete walls to add thermal mass, carefully shaded windows, insulation, an under-floor mechanical system to minimize the use of air conditioning, and daylight sensors to control lighting.

MATERIALS & WASTE—More than 25 percent of construction materials contain recycled content, including the ceramic tile, carpeting, and flooring. Twenty percent of the building materials were made locally (within a 500-mile radius) which contributes to the local economy and helps reduce pollution related to transporting goods and materials.

HEALTH & SAFETY—Building orientation, clerestory windows, and skylights maximize natural light in the library. The raised floor system delivers heat and air conditioning only where it is needed. The raised floor also has easily removable panels that allow for easier maintenance and expansion of electrical, mechanical and communication systems.

BUILDING PROFILE
Located on the southeast corner of Saratoga Avenue and San Tomas Aquino Road, West Valley Branch Library is the City of San Jose’s first LEED certified municipal building and was the first LEED certified public library in the world.

FUNCTION: West Valley offers a wide range of books and multimedia materials, access to computers and wireless internet, and education programs for all ages.

BUILDING SIZE: 20,000 square feet, one story
OPENING DATE: May 2003
CERTIFICATION: LEED© Certified, January 2004
ARCHITECTS: Rob Wellington Quigley, FAIA
CONTRACTOR: West Bay Builders
PROJECT MANAGEMENT: San José Department of Public Works
FUNDING SOURCES: San José Construction Excise Tax Fund
San José Library Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund
City of San José General Fund

LEED SCORECARD*

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www.usgbc.org

SAN JOSE’S GREEN VISION IN ACTION
LEED certification of the West Valley Branch Library contributes to achieving the San José Green Vision goal to build or retrofit 50 million square feet of green buildings by 2022. It supports additional Green Vision goals related to energy and water efficiency, recycled water use, and waste reduction. San José policies promote green building practices to reduce the impact of the built environment on global climate change. www.sanjoseca.gov/greenvision
EXPLORE GREEN FEATURES AT WEST VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

Improved indoor environmental quality supports better learning. To achieve this, low-VOC (volatile organic compound) emitting paints, carpets, finishes, and adhesives were used throughout the library. Fifty percent of the wood used is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified which means it came from responsibly managed forests.

Daylight pours in through large window panels and clerestory windows, offsetting the need for electric lights. The deep roof overhang and mature trees shade the building, reducing the need for air conditioning.

The woven screen on the ceiling acts as a diffuser to soften light brought in through skylights. Automatic sensors turn off lights when daylight is adequate.

San Jose’s agricultural past is reflected in plant themed artworks throughout the library. All artworks are made of green materials including found and recycled objects, sustainably harvested wood and low-VOC paint.

AWARDS

- State of California 2004 Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award
- 2004 American Institute of Architects Santa Clara Valley Merit Award
- 2004 BOMA-Silicon Valley’s Building and Earth Awards’ Green Building Award
- 2003 American Institute of Architects San Diego Divine Detail Award

MORE INFORMATION & CONTACTS

West Valley Branch Library
1243 San Tomas Aquino Road, San José, CA 95117
408-244-4747
www.sjpl.org/westvalley

Municipal Green Building Program
408-535-8550
www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/greenbuilding