

Green Building Policy

Bernards Township is actively working on making all aspects of municipal facilities “greener” and more environmentally sustainable. This policy encompasses municipal buildings, grounds, and facilities operations.

The overarching goals of this policy include promoting efficiency, reducing waste, conserving resources, reducing overall environmental impact, costs savings promoting health and safety of municipal employees and residents, and improving the quality of life for all members of the community.

Aspects of this initiative, many already being realized include:

- An energy audit has been completed and numerous upgrades have been made based on these findings
- Energy efficiency, upgrading and retrofitting equipment and building infrastructure whenever possible, including lighting efficiency and, heating and air conditioning
- Completion of a LEED certified building addition to Municipal Sewerage Authority (see below)
- Installation of energy star products
- Installation of water savings devices and promoting water conservation in general.
- A green grounds and maintenance policy, implementing strategies of efficient landscaping, water conservation and integrated pest management
- Work towards sustainable source of energy generation for DPW complex in the form of solar power
- A comprehensive recycling program for municipal buildings and residents of the township
- A green purchasing policy, which is presently in place for many items being purchased by the municipality
- A green municipal garage policy, conserving resources, saving energy, reducing pollution and waste, and promoting worker health and safety
- Reduction of hazardous materials whenever feasible- promoting health and safety, reducing environmental risk, reducing required record keeping, and reducing costs.
- Implementation of BPU Initiative

Bernards Township Sewerage Authority Administration Building Expansion Green and Sustainable Concepts of Design

1. The building has been designed with green and sustainable concepts and will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

2. By expanding an existing building, there was minimal new site disturbances, no tree removal and minimal soil run-off.
3. Solar panels were installed on the roof to provide heat for the hot water heating system.
4. Operable windows were installed to provide all occupants with direct daylight, outdoor views, and natural ventilation. In this project, 100% of regularly occupied spaces have directly daylight and outdoor views.
5. All the plumbing fixtures are low flow fixtures. With this LEED category alone, this building will save as much as 42.6% of water usage compare to using conventional plumbing fixtures. Less water usage also means less waste water generation.
6. Rain barrels are installed to collect rain water from the roof surface. This water will be used for site irrigation, and at the same time to reduce surface water run off on site to storm system.
7. The roof was selected to be a highly reflective metal roofing material to reduce the heat gain.
8. To maintain the indoor air quality, all materials used in this building were VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) free. Materials with higher recycled content were also specified for this project. Also local materials were used as much as possible.
9. All wood materials in this building were certified by Forest Stewardship Council for companies using sustainable practices.
10. All construction demolition/waste materials were sorted and recycled.
11. Surface bricks were salvaged and reused for patching the remaining walls.
12. The indoor air quality is maximized in several ways. The building was fully flushed out before occupancy to blow out all odors and particulates. Filter systems were installed to reduce particulate and allergens once occupied. The air quality is monitored after the occupation.
13. To reduce any exterior light pollution, the only new light at the exterior is the flag pole light. It is a solar powered LED light which only shines downward.
14. To save operational costs, all interior lights are controlled by switches with motion sensors. When there is no movement detected in the room for a certain length of time, the lights will be turned off to save electricity.

15. To give the occupied space a more comfortable indoor working environment the building exterior will include extra insulation. The HVAC system was design to be more efficient with a cost of at least 7% lower than normal systems.