



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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What's growing on
at the Garden!

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN'S MONSANTO CENTER EARNS SILVER CERTIFICATION UNDER LEED EXISTING BUILDINGS (EB)

Monsanto Center Becomes First Building in Missouri to Receive EB Certification

(ST. LOUIS): The Monsanto Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden has officially earned silver certification under the LEED EB-Operations and Maintenance rating system. Less than 500 buildings have received any type of LEED EB certification. The Garden's Monsanto Center is the first in Missouri.



Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED for Existing Buildings is a method for building owners and operators of existing buildings to implement sustainable operations and maintenance practices and reduce the environmental impact of a building over its functional life cycle. LEED EB addresses exterior building site maintenance, water and energy use, environmentally preferred purchasing for office operations and furnishings, cleaning and building alterations, waste stream management, and ongoing indoor environmental quality.

The Monsanto Center's certification required the establishment and implementation of a wide range of policies in support of sustainable operations including: building operations and maintenance,

(over)

ADD ONE: Silver LEED EB

housekeeping, procurement, landscaping, snow removal and pest managements, among other operations. A wide range of Garden employees were involved in the process and will continue to maintain and monitor these sustainable operations.

“This is not a race we ever really finish,” said Deborah Frank, vice president of sustainability at the Missouri Botanical Garden. “Rather, it’s a long term relay race in which we have to continuously keep the baton in play. Ultimately, it will result in cost savings, reduction in resource consumption, and an improved working environment for employees.”

The Monsanto Center, located at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer, was designed and constructed in 1998 before LEED certification was an option. Upon its opening in January of that year, it was heralded as one of the most sustainable operations in St. Louis. The Monsanto Center is a four story, 77,500-square-foot building designed to house the Garden’s world renowned herbarium collection, rare books library and over 100 research staff and students. The building was constructed on a remediated brownfield site utilizing high albedo concrete pavement, recycled plastic grid parking areas and low maintenance, low water landscaping. Light shelves on the south facing windows, along with task light and motion detectors, provide a high efficiency lighting system. Building finishes included a wide range of green products including linoleum, wood paneling from sustainable forests, floor moldings from recycled rubber, and painted concrete floors to minimize resource use. Bike racks equipped with bicycles to commute to the main campus are available in the building’s foyer.

Beginning in 2000, the Monsanto Center was remodeled in three phases to increase the operating efficiency of the original design for heating and cooling. During the LEED EB certification process, the U.S. Green Building Council confirmed that the Monsanto Center is operating over 30 percent more efficient than comparable buildings. Given the unique environmental systems required for the herbarium, this is a major achievement. The building earned extra points during the process because the Garden documented solid waste diversion of over 80 percent via material recycling and product reuse.

For more information about the Monsanto Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden visit www.mobot.org.

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NOTE: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at www.mobot.org/press.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.