



Idaho Nurses Association – Greener Idaho Topic June 2009

Mulvaney Medical Office Building Combines Environmental Stewardship, Healing Environment Contributed by Lisa Parker

A new medical office building on the Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center campus in Boise offers medical practitioners the benefits of a healthier environment and healthier patient and employee surroundings. The Mulvaney Medical Office Building is the first medical office building in Idaho to register for LEED certification with the U.S. Green Building Council.

In the United States, buildings account for 72 percent of electricity consumption, 39 percent of energy use overall, 38 percent of carbon emissions, and a third of all waste output. A LEED building, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, can reduce energy consumption by 30 to 50 percent and carbon emissions by 35 percent. LEED buildings also reduce potable water use by 40 percent and solid waste output by an incredible 70 percent.

The Mulvaney building, named after Sister Patricia and Sister Beth Mulvaney, is targeting gold standard LEED certification which would make it only the third building in Idaho and the first medical office building to attain this level of environmental accountability. Some notable features of the Mulvaney include:

- Located on the Saint Alphonsus campus, it takes advantage of an already developed site in close proximity to other medical services, reducing transportation impacts.
- Designed to use low-flow water fixtures throughout, the Mulvaney also features a second-floor, outdoor healing garden that makes use of local and adaptive plants to further reduce water use.
- Developers used local and regional materials for construction and recycled over 80 percent of construction debris.
- An extensive recycling program will be one of the ongoing features of the building.

Because LEED buildings create a healthier employee environment through features such as improved indoor air quality, they have been shown to increase occupant comfort, satisfaction and even lower employee absenteeism. The Mulvaney's extensive use of skylights and its second-floor healing garden also promote an atmosphere of well-being through a connection to the outside environment.

For more information on the Mulvaney Medical Office Building please visit www.mulvaneymob.com or contact Lisa Parker at 208.472.2850.