



Media Release

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Guelph Hydro's "Green" Facility Receives LEED® Certification

Office building is a testament to the company's commitment to sustainability

(GUELPH, ON) - June 27, 2011 - Guelph Hydro is pleased to announce that Phase II of its office on Southgate Drive in Guelph has officially received LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the Canada Green Building Council. The 3,344 square metre addition built in 2005/2006, features many energy-efficient and sustainable characteristics including a ground-source geo-thermal heating and cooling system, high-efficiency plumbing and lighting, and drought resistant and native species landscaping.

"We are immensely proud of our LEED®-certified office. Not only is it a bright, spacious, and healthy environment for our employees to work in, but it also demonstrates our commitment to sustainable business practices and our leadership in the field of clean, renewable energy," says Barry Chuddy, Chief Executive Officer, Guelph Hydro Inc.

To earn certification, the building was evaluated in areas such as energy and water efficiency, atmospheric gas emissions, indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of natural resources.

Energy and Water Efficiency

As a result of a geo-thermal heating and cooling system, lighting efficiencies, and building envelope design, the building consumes 43 per cent less energy than the minimum requirements for energy efficiency set out in the National Resources Canada Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB).

Water use is 20 per cent lower than LEED® baseline measurements.

Environmentally sustainable features of the LEED® -certified building include:

- A geo-thermal heat pump system uses the ground's natural temperature to provide clean, renewable, heating and cooling for the building
- A building automation system regulates air temperature and humidity thereby enabling more efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning control
- Timers and motion sensors control building lights
- Skylights and large windows provide natural lighting
- Windows can be opened or closed to enable the flow of fresh air
- High efficiency plumbing fixtures including low-flow faucets and toilets reduce water use
- Designated carpool parking spots as well as bike racks and showers to encourage employees to bike to and from work help reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from personal vehicles
- Drought tolerant and native plant species that eliminate the need for landscape irrigation, excessive fertilization and pest control
- Local and recycled construction materials used throughout the building
- Use of GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® office furniture which is 100 per cent biodegradable and/or recyclable and meets strict chemical emissions limits, which contribute to the creation of healthier interiors.
- Use of low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, coatings and adhesives that improve the indoor air quality of the building
- Heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems that do not use chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) or hydrofluorocarbon-based (HFC) refrigerants

Note: Guelph Hydro recently installed 60 arrays of solar photovoltaic rooftop panels to feed 100 kilowatts of clean, renewable energy into the Ontario electricity grid. The solar power installation was not included in the LEED® application because the LEED® certification process began before the panels were installed.

About Guelph Hydro

Guelph Hydro Inc. is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph's Community Energy Initiative.

Guelph Hydro Inc. is the holding company for Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc., the local electricity distribution company serving 50,000 customers in Guelph and Rockwood, Ontario, and for Ecotricity Guelph Inc., an alternative energy company, also located in Guelph.

For more information, visit www.guelphhydroinc.com

About LEED®

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: sustainable site development, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and administered in Canada by the Canada Green Building Council, LEED® provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

For more information about LEED®, visit www.cagbc.org

About Canada Green Building Council

The Canada Green Building Council the leading national industry organization advancing green building practices for livable communities. It represents more than 2,300 member organizations involved in the design, construction and operation of buildings. The Council owns the Canadian license for LEED® and implements the LEED® Green Building Rating System in Canada.

For more information on the Canadian Green Building Council, visit www.cagbc.org