



Friends Center of Philadelphia

The renovation of the Friends Center, a National Historic Landmark in downtown Philadelphia, began as a modest capital improvements project. Now, by embracing the Quaker tenet that peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity, the Center stands as a model of sustainable design after achieving the highest LEED Platinum (NCv2.1) score in Pennsylvania.

7group collaborated with a diverse team of highly committed consultants through early design charrettes and provided the design and final energy models as well as extensive commissioning services. Two goals governed the venture: to prevent further degradation of the watershed by reducing water usage and stormwater runoff, and to become 100% fossil fuel free. For these efforts, the Center has won numerous awards, among them the 2009 GBCA Construction Excellence Award for Best Green Building, 2010 Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia Grand Jury Award and 2007 PA EC and PA DEP Stormwater Best Management Practices Award.

The Friends Center, a three-building complex that includes the historic 1856 Race Street Meetinghouse, a former school, and a 1972 office building, more than surpassed their original sustainability objectives. Direct daylight at nearly every desk, combined with a functional and aesthetically open design reduces air conditioning loads and provides a healthy work environment. Stormwater harvested in cisterns from the Meetinghouse's roof is reused for toilet flushing reducing water consumption by 57%. Meetinghouse renovations corrected structural deficiencies, removed interior partitions, stabilized the building envelope, reestablished extensive daylighting and incorporated energy efficient lighting. Additions to the office building include a green roof, a 10 kW photovoltaic array provides supplemental electricity and reduces the building's peak load, and a field of seven geothermal wells ranging from 650 ft to 1,500 ft deep heat and cool the building. These wells are the first of their kind in urban Philadelphia and dramatically reduce the facility's operating costs and carbon footprint.

Location

Philadelphia, PA, USA

Project Owner

Friends Center of Philadelphia

Architect

UJMN Architects + Designers

Building Size

93,000 sf

Cost

\$15,000,000

Completed

September 2009

LEED® Status

LEED Platinum (NCv2.1)
Certified

