

Wisconsin Green Building Project Profile

River Crest Elementary School
Hudson, WI

BACKGROUND

River Crest Elementary, at 93,450 square feet, has capacity for 588 kindergarten through fifth grade students with additional space for early childhood special education.

River Crest opened to students for the first time on September 2, 2008. It is the Hudson School District's sixth elementary school but its first to be designed and constructed using sustainable principles.

From the project's beginning, the Hudson School District, led by Superintendent of Schools Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten and the Hudson Board of Education, fixed their sights on creating a school that would be a model of sustainable design and practices for River Crest's students and staff, the entire district, and the greater community. Pursuing LEED® certification was at the center of that goal.

RESULTS

River Crest Elementary became the first elementary school in Wisconsin, and just the second public elementary school in the United States, to receive Gold under the USGBC's new LEED for Schools Rating System. Additionally, it is the second of only two public school buildings in the state to receive LEED Gold designation—the first being Hoffman's Northland Pines High School project in Eagle River, in 2006.

A unique feature of the school, which is located directly across from YMCA — Camp St. Croix, is an underpass that was built under a county highway. This permits safe access between the school grounds and the camp property, linking the trails at Camp St. Croix to the paved walking/bike trail that winds around the entire 43-acre school site.

River Crest was designed and built for \$166/square foot; including design, site work, construction, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment. The total project cost is 29% below (\$57/square foot less than) the

average cost for public elementary schools built in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in 2008, according to School Planning & Management in their "2009 Construction Report".

"River Crest's LEED Gold certification validates and confirms that sustainable design and construction can be done at or below conventional costs," stated Mark Hanson, Hoffman's Director of Sustainable Services. "It's the right thing to do, and there is no reason not to design and build green."

More than half (by cost) of the materials used were manufactured within 500 miles of the construction site, reducing fuel consumption and pollution associated with transporting them, and supporting the regional economy—highlighted by Hoffman's collaboration with local window manufacturer, Andersen Windows, on a new product designed specifically for River Crest.

"I love the amount of windows and that we don't have curtains on them—that we're able to look out into that beautiful environment," stated Pat Hodges, River Crest's principal. "I truly enjoy the windows and the amount of daylight."

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date of Completion: August, 2008
Architect or Firm: Hoffman LLC
Owner: Hudson School District, Mary Bowen-Eggebraaten, Superintendent of Schools

- Energy: CDH Energy Corp.
- Structural: Larson Engineering of Wisconsin
- Electrical and Communications: Muermann Engineering, Inc.
- Mechanicals: Fredericksen Engineering
- Civil: Stevens Engineers
- Acoustical/Sound: Arrow Audio
- Plumbing and Fire Protection: Lubenow, Gobster, Dominiak & Assoc.
- Equipment: Food Service Venues

Green Building Awards

LEED Certification - Gold, LEED for Schools Rating System
2009 AGC BUILD Wisconsin Award-Winner in the Design Build New Construction category.



For more information about the building please check out the school's website at: <http://rc.hudson.k12.wi.us>