

# Wisconsin Green Building Project Profile

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
1111 East Brown Deer Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53217

## BACKGROUND

Situated on 185 acres along the shores of Lake Michigan, the Dorothy K. Vallier Environmental Learning Center at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center opened to the public in May, 2003

Once a pristine lakeside prairie and woodland, the site was logged and turned into horse pasture in the early 1900's. Farmed by the Schlitz Brewery for draft horses, the land became a nature preserve in 1971.

The goal was to design a 100-year building, that preserves the natural sanctuary of the site and helps educate the public about energy use, sustainability, and the natural world.

This building was Wisconsin's first nature preschool and educates around 35,000 children every year.

This award-winning green building features recycled materials and systems that support energy efficiency, water conservation and sustainability.

## RESULTS

Extensive use of natural light, with specially designed and placed window systems reduce energy needed for lighting. Overall 61% of building areas are day-lit and have direct outdoor views.

A restored native prairie covers a geothermal heating and cooling system with 90 groundwater wells. This heating and cooling system provides 22 individual thermal zones and reduces overall energy consumption.

A 10-kilowatt photovoltaic solar power system, donated by We Energies, supplies 10% of the buildings electricity needs. Continuous performance monitoring is achieved through computer software and a recording weather station. 100% of electricity purchased is from green power technology.

Low-flow plumbing and waterless urinals help protect the environment by reducing water usage on site.

Natural ventilation, low lighting power, and day-lighting result in energy savings of well over 50% compared to minimally code compliant building.

The building orientation takes advantage of the lakefront microclimate, providing cooling breezes that flow freely throughout the naturally ventilated interior.

The building site and footprint were fit into an existing solar window to maximize passive and active solar opportunities. A long east-west axis offers exposure to south and north light.

Expansive outdoor porches are supported by logs cut from white pine trees originally planted in the 1940's by Aldo Leopold.

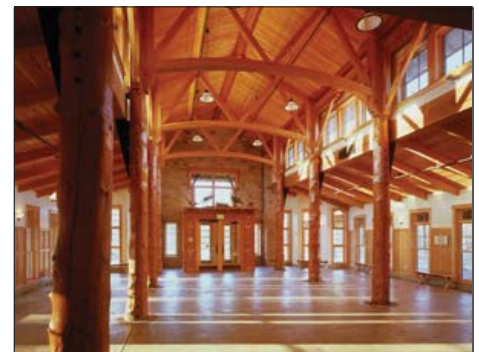
Approximately 50% recycled content was used in construction. 52% of building products were harvested or extracted locally. 74% of rough lumber and millwork was certified. Low VOC materials were used throughout the interior and exterior.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Date of Completion: May, 2003  
Architect: Kubala Washatko Architects Inc  
Owner: Schlitz Audubon Nature Center  
General Contractor: Jansen Construction Group Inc.  
Consultants:

- Energy: Michael Utzinger, UWM/SARUP
- Structural: Hardwood Engineering
- Mechanical: The Wenninger Co.
- Landscape: Schlitz Land Stewards
- Environmental: David Flowers
- Electrical: Roman Electric
- Commissioning: Johnson Controls
- Civil: North Shore Engineering Inc.
- System Controls: Johnson Controls
- Wetlands: David Flowers, P.E.
- Owners Rep: Irgens Development Partners LLC.

**Green Building Awards**  
2007 LEED-NC Certified Gold  
2007 Merit Award - Wisconsin AIA Pavilion Award  
2005 Special Recognition - Wisconsin AIA Building Award  
2004 Award of Excellence - Sustainability & Energy Efficiency (SE2) Leadership Award  
2004 Green Power Leadership Club - U.S. EPA  
2003 Wisconsin Green Power Purchaser Award - Resource Solutions Award



For more information about the building please check out the website <http://www.sanc.org/>