



2012

Maryland Green Registry Leadership Award Winner



Lucy School



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The Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards recognize organizations that have shown a strong commitment to the implementation of sustainable practices, the demonstration of measurable results, and the continual improvement of environmental performance. Read here how this award winner achieved its environmental success and continues to move forward along the path to sustainability.

What innovation or set of results are you most proud of?

Lucy School teachers have worked closely together to develop a detailed environmental curriculum for our students, ages 3- 5th grade. We review and update the curriculum regularly. Part of the curriculum uses our Green Classroom Building as a teaching tool. For example, students learn about our gray water system in the woods and how we capture rain water to flush our toilets. This building received a LEED for Schools Platinum certification, the first such designation for a school in the State of Maryland. Platinum is the highest level that can be awarded for leadership in energy and environmental design (LEED), a third-party certification program that



LEED Platinum School Building

is the internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED for Schools takes into account specific attributes of school spaces through a more elaborate and demanding certification process with additional rigorous standards in air quality, day lighting, occupant health, and acoustics. While Platinum certification requires a minimum of 58 awarded points, the Lucy School submission included 69 points of which the USGBC accepted 68, demonstrating the building's outstanding performance in a broad range of areas. We also have a thoroughly green cleaning program and are particularly very proud for convincing the Maryland Department of Education to permit us to use a solution of tea tree oil, soap and water as a cleaning solution with anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, and anti-microbial qualities to replace the use of bleach. Finally, we were recently selected as a National Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education!



How do you involve employees from all parts of your organization in your environmental programs and projects and how do you keep them motivated?

Lucy School faculty and staff meet weekly to plan curriculum and share experiences. Our environmental program and practices are part of this discussion. For example, just this past week, one teacher shared with others how she used an extended mirror for children to view eggs and baby birds in nests on our campus. Teachers are engaged in the process on an ongoing basis. Their contributions are welcomed and appreci-

ated. Their motivation is largely based on their deep commitment to green practices and to leading children to become stewards of the environment.

How do you measure and ensure continual improvement in environmental performance? What have you learned from this process?

In addition to our weekly meetings, we have extended meetings at the beginning of the year, mid-year and end of year to review practices including environmental practices. Having this ongoing opportunity to reflect and collaborate on best practices is well worth the time and effort.

What's the first step you would recommend that someone take when starting to green their organization?

I recommend using the list of requirements for LEED certification as a starting point. Even if you are not creating a new building, you can look at those practices relevant to your school or business as a guide. It is very thorough. Also finding a leader or a team of people within your school or business to lead help lead this effort, is a way to get all involved.

What future innovations would you like to see in your industry and what is your vision for your organization?

We would like to see public schools create nature centers on their campuses and/or rooftops and increase opportunities for unstructured and guided learning time outdoors. Lucy School is a model demonstrations school and teacher training center. Part of our mission for the school is to share methodology and curriculum with other teachers and school systems. We offer on-site training and present workshops nationwide.



For more information on environmental best practices at Lucy School, visit the Maryland Green Registry website at www.green.maryland.gov/registry and click on List of Maryland Green Registry Members to view member profiles.

The Maryland Green Registry is a voluntary program that promotes and recognizes environmentally sustainable practices in organizations of all types and sizes across the State. Visit the Maryland Green Registry website at www.green.maryland.gov/registry for tips and resources designed to help organizations set and meet their own goals on the path to sustainability.

