



Dorothy K. Vallier
Environmental Learning
Center

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sustainable Sites

- Located fifteen minutes from downtown Milwaukee
- Accessible by bike
- Nestled in 185-acre nature preserve on Lake Michigan
- Building location uses somewhat deteriorated portion of site, yet provides open space for solar “window”
- Building site connects to existing trails and provides for creation of adjacent trailheads



Materials and Resources

- Use of locally harvested and manufactured materials
- Site harvested lumber for timber frame and exterior decking
- Donated logs for porch columns
- Use of recycled content materials
- Use of durable materials
- Reuse or resell materials from previous building
- Stable portions of foundation used to create a useable outdoor space
- Exposed concrete floor as finished floor eliminates unnecessary use of materials



Construction

- Employed construction waste recycling program with help from Wastecap Wisconsin
- Encourage contractors to take home material cutoffs
- Contain dust and runoff to minimize effect on site
- Complete most environmentally destructive parts of construction during winter

Water Efficiency

- Low-flow plumbing
- Waterless urinals
- Local plants used in landscaping require little irrigation
- Rainwater collection for irrigation

Energy and Atmosphere

- Photovoltaic generation of electricity
- Building orientation utilizes daylighting for work spaces reducing need for electricity
- Building mass stores and releases energy, mitigating temperature swings
- Operable windows facilitate natural ventilation
- Geexchange heat pumps use constant earth temperature to provide heating and cooling
- Thicker wall construction for better insulation
- Power purchased from renewable sources
- Site grading at south side of building allows use of windows in basement for ventilation and light
- Building overhangs help to control sunlight and reduce summer heat gain



Indoor Environmental Air Quality

- Low-emitting adhesives and sealants
- Low-emitting paints
- Low-emitting carpets
- Indoor chemical and pollutant source control
- Daylight and views for 90% of spaces



The Nature Center's Mission

“Because the earth can't speak for itself, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center promotes an appreciation, understanding and stewardship of our natural heritage through environmental education and sanctuary preservation.”





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