

New Lab facility receives green building recognition

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The Lab's newest facility, the Radiological Laboratory Utility Office Building (RLUOB), is the first to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) status and LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The new facility contains laboratories for analytical chemistry and materials characterization of special nuclear materials, along with space for training and other operations. Its multi-functional purpose makes RLUOB a unique project within the Laboratory, and significant efforts were made to ensure it is environmentally sound.

“LEED certification was a huge goal, and one we sought from the very beginning of this project,” said LANL Director Charlie McMillan. “It’s an important step forward, allowing us to advance national security science in modern, safer, more efficient infrastructure.”

The Lab’s project team and its contractor partners, in coordination with Jacobs Engineering, focused on green design and construction in LEED categories, such as sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources,

indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design. Some of RLUOB's features include:

- Building design (orientation, materials, and insulation) that yields a 20 percent improvement in energy performance;
- Use of building materials with 24 percent recycled content;
- Construction-generated materials that were reused, recycled, and salvaged;
- High-efficiency boilers, chillers, and thermal storage systems;
- Energy-efficient lighting for interiors, exteriors, process glove boxes, and fume hoods;
- Water-efficient fixtures resulting in a 30 percent use reduction;
- Low-emission paints and carpeting for improved indoor air quality;
- Xeriscaping that doesn't require permanent irrigation;
- Comprehensive transportation alternatives, including public transportation, bicycle storage and changing rooms, and a refueling station for government vehicles that includes alternative fuels.

For more information on LEED, see www.usgbc.org. LEED® is a registered trademark of U.S. Green Building Council.

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