

Greener Facilities

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to making a positive impact on the environment. USPS creates sustainable spaces for employees and customers working in and conducting business at less than 32,000 postal facilities across the country. The Postal Service also continues to enhance standards and processes to design, construct and operate sustainable and efficient buildings that are lifecycle cost effective.

- Postal buildings are going green. Postal facilities are renovated with the indoor and outdoor environment in mind. These facilities **use less energy and water, create less waste**, and have less impact on the environment.
- USPS is working to **reduce total facility energy use by 30 percent by FY 2015, and to reduce the energy intensity (energy use per square foot)** of its buildings 30 percent by FY 2015. As of the end of FY 2010, the Postal Service has reduced total energy use by 29.4 percent and energy intensity by 28.3 percent, against FY 2003 baselines.
- The Denver Mile-High Station Post Office earned the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, becoming the **first LEED-certified Post Office** in the country. LEED certification is a nationally accepted rating system that measures the environmental attributes and sustainable features of buildings.
- **LEED-certifiable, green features include** native drought resistant plants to reduce water use, timers on parking lot lights, energy-efficient windows and water heaters that only heat water when a hot water tap is turned on. The growing list of postal facilities earning LEED certification also includes:
 - Greenville (SC) P&DC expansion — LEED Gold.
 - Troy (MI) Royal Oak Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) — LEED.
 - Eagan (MN) Mail Processing Facility expansion — LEED Silver.
- The Morgan Processing and Distribution Center in downtown Manhattan has a green roof. At nearly 2.5 acres, the roof is an environmental oasis designed to reduce energy use and provide a safe, sustainable outdoor environment for employees. It is the largest green roof in New York City.
- Post Office lobby design standards have been updated to incorporate **environmentally friendly building components**, including linoleum or bio-based floor tiles, low volatile organic compound (VOC) products, counters and cabinetry using renewable materials and veneers such as bamboo, and more efficient lighting technologies.
- The Postal Service continues to use **solar photovoltaic systems** that convert sunlight directly into electricity. USPS continually pursues opportunities to obtain a portion of its purchased power from renewable sources.
- A variety of high performance **sustainable building design concepts** are integrated into the Postal Service's national building design standards, used for all construction, renovation, repair and alteration projects. Examples of sustainable building concepts used are energy efficient lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), low VOC paints, recycled-content materials and low-water-use fixtures.
- **Native plant species** are used in landscaping at postal facilities around the country to minimize consumption of water and energy.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has honored the Postal Service with its **Environmental Achievement Award** for use of "green solutions" in the Pacific Area, including solar photovoltaic systems, fuel cells and combined heat and power generation.
- A group of North Carolina Post Offices implemented **advanced metering and remote monitoring** and control of HVAC systems, reducing energy consumption an average of 14 percent at those locations. These systems automatically set heat and air conditioning levels to needed temperatures before employees arrive for work and permit energy-saving temperatures during the hours the facilities are unoccupied.