



For Immediate Release: 08.17.09

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: John Wielebnicki
Public Works Director
708.358.5700

Public Works Center earns LEED gold certification

The Village of Oak Park's Public Works Center has earned a gold rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, the preeminent, internationally recognized green building certification system.

Oak Park's Public Works Center, located on South Boulevard at Lombard Avenue, opened in late 2007, and was Illinois' first public works facility to pursue LEED certification. Given the size and types of operations that would be housed in the building, the goal had been silver certification. But when the points were tallied, the building had achieved gold certification.

"We were incredibly pleased when the e-mail came with the news that we had taken the gold," said John Wielebnicki, Oak Park's Public Works director who oversaw the project to raise a new green building from the ashes of a fire in 2004 that had destroyed much of the original public works site.

"The route to certification is long and tedious. From planning and demolition to construction and documentation, every aspect of the facility had to be considered in terms of its environmental impact and sustainability. To have a public works facility achieve silver is a major accomplishment. To earn gold exceeds all hopes and expectations."

Looking east along South Boulevard, the Oak Park Public Works Center contains 155,000 square feet of space meticulously designed to be energy efficient, environmentally friendly and at home in its predominantly residential neighborhood. Everything, including winter road salt, is housed on the three floors of space inside the building, which covers about two acres.

Only the top two floors of the building are visible above ground. Low-emission paints, adhesives, coatings, sealants and carpeting were used throughout, and large windows take advantage of natural light. Other features include a green roof and ultra-efficient mechanical heating and cooling equipment, as well as rooftop solar collectors that supply all of the building's hot water.

For more information, call 708.358.5700 or e-mail publicworks@oak-park.us.

###