

Palm Desert Goes Green!

The City of Palm Desert has a reputation for excellence and leadership in conservation and environmental stewardship. The City's groundbreaking efforts in recycling, energy conservation, water efficiency, and sustainable development have garnered national recognition, including a report in *The Wall Street Journal* that recognized Palm Desert as one of nine cities worldwide that has been innovative in cutting energy use. The City has set rigorous environmental standards to protect the aesthetic qualities of the area and municipal ordinances address issues including pollution, building height and density, hillside construction, and energy conservation.

In 2006, Palm Desert pledged to reduce its energy demand and use by 30 percent over five years and established a Department of Energy Management in 2007 that works in conjunction with the City, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company and The Energy Coalition. Known as *Set to Save*, the program encourages energy efficiency and conservation.

Also in 2006, the City implemented the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification program - a nationally accepted benchmark for green building design and construction - for the first of two buildings. **Randall Lamb** was the electrical engineer and lighting designer for the Palm Desert Visitor Center, which earned Silver certification that year, and the Henderson Community Building, built and certified in 2008.

Palm Desert Visitor Center, Palm Desert, CA (2006)

Randall Lamb provided electrical engineering and lighting design services for the 8,200 sq ft visitor center that set a new, environmentally friendly standard for construction in the California desert. Designed from the ground up to be green, the Visitor Center's efficient design and 60 solar panels uses 40% less energy than permitted under already stringent City building codes. It was the first building in the Coachella Valley to be awarded LEED certification at any level.

Henderson Community Building, Palm Desert, CA (2008)

Randall Lamb subsequently provided electrical engineering and lighting design for the \$4.5 million, 5,726 sq ft Henderson Community Building that is the second LEED certified building for Palm Desert. Designed to work with the hot desert environment rather than against it, the building was constructed using rapidly renewable and recycled materials as well as energy and water conserving appliances and fixtures.

The building will serve as the new home of the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce and provide a comfortable and environmentally friendly meeting place for a variety of community groups.



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