



THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION

Building Partnerships For Better Health Care

MERCY SUBURBAN HOSPITAL

Pursuing LEED Gold Certification

Background

Mercy Suburban Hospital, is a 129-bed acute care hospital, one of four hospitals in the Mercy Health System of Southeastern Pennsylvania, a member of Catholic Health East, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

In August 2001, a Project Steering Committee was created to develop initial plans to build an addition and renovate existing space for Emergency Department and Surgical Suites. This was based on projected high demand for Inpatient and Outpatient growth.

Mercy Suburban Hospital, led by a Green Team, undertook efforts to adopt more friendly environmental practices. Mercy Suburban's Core Value of Stewardship for the Environment led the hospital to engage in "Green Building" architectural design for the new addition and facility renovation. The hospital was seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for the project. In August 2003, an \$18 million building project was approved for the following:

- Emergency Department expansion to 30 beds;
- Surgical Suite expansion from 4 ORs to 6 ORs;
- 7 SPU to 12 SPU beds;
- 7 PACU beds to 13 PACU beds;
- New laboratory;
- New pharmacy.

The Mercy Suburban Hospital LEED Building Project Journey and Timeline is as follows:

- Fall 2003:
 - Emergency Department and Surgical Suite Master Plan constructed and preliminary architectural designs completed;
 - Green Building education sessions provided;
 - Green Building concept approved by Mercy Suburban Hospital and Mercy Suburban Hospital Board of Directors.
- Winter 2003:
 - Green Building/LEED Consultants hired

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- **March 2004:**
 - All-day meeting session with a multidisciplinary focus was held, with the scope of work determined:
 - Create an energy efficient and environmentally friendly building;
 - Obtain LEED certification;
 - Increase Emergency Department beds;
 - Improve parking;
 - Improved outpatient experience;
 - Increase PACU beds;
 - Increase OR suites and SPU beds.

- **Spring 2004:**
 - Preliminary DOH approval

- **Summer 2004:**
 - Project out for bid

- **Fall 2004:**
 - Bid awarded;
 - Ground breaking;
 - Biweekly project meetings initiated.

- **2005:**
 - Construction underway

- **April 2006:**
 - Phase I (new Emergency Department addition) open for patient care. Phase II Emergency Department construction underway.
 - New laboratory opened for service.

- **May 2006:**
 - Phase I of OR expansion open for patient care for 11 new SPU beds.
 - Phase II of OR construction underway.

- **Summer 2006:**
 - ED Project complete, all 30 beds open;
 - O.R. and Surgical Suite scheduled for completion by mid-November;
 - Commissioning to be completed by Spring 2007.

- **Mercy Suburban Hospital LEED Team comprised of:**
 - CEO
 - Vice President-Real Estate/Facilities;
 - Vice President-Patient Care Services;
 - Facility Director;
 - Materials Management

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Successes:

- Overall space is much brighter and cheerful through use of daylight/natural lighting
- Water efficiencies
- Preserving natural resources
- Optimal energy performance – 30% energy savings projected
- Indoor environmental quality improved
- Recycled content
- Innovative design (marrying old with new)
- Interior design with use of earth tones creates calming and soothing atmosphere
- Multidisciplinary involvement -- all levels were included in planning
- Three “R” Category: Reusable, Repairable, Recyclable

Leed Score Cards:

Phase I Preliminary Numbers: 37

Phase II Preliminary Numbers: 41

Phase I and II pending final approval of U.S. Green Building Council

