



MEDIA CONTACT:
Photo by:

Heather West, 612-724-8760, heatherwest@earthlink.net
Payam Rahimian, 805-708-5083

Wausau Provides Window Units for One of the Nation's Greenest Buildings – UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

Wausau, Wis. – Thanks in part to Wausau Window and Wall Systems, Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management's laboratory building at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is one of the greenest buildings in the United States and one of the highest performing, most sustainable buildings constructed to date.



Certified at the Platinum Level by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Rating System®, Bren Hall sets a high standard for sustainable buildings of the future, and is being used as a model for facilities and operations throughout the campuses of California and across the nation. Among its honors, this \$26 million building was featured as part of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works' Green Building Roundtable for incorporating "sustainable practices and materials into virtually all of its 85,000-square-feet."

Dean of the Bren School Dennis Aigner, quarterbacked the construction of the school and brought to life the vision of architect Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership of Los Angeles. To further ensure efficient use of energy, it is designed to include a 47-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system to capture the sunlight and provide almost 10% of the building's electricity.

Wausau manufactured the building's large daylight-harvesting 2250 Series window system. Facing the ocean, the office wing has no air conditioning, but relies on flow-through ventilation with Wausau's operable windows and transoms. The windows in the office wing have a mechanical interlock (a small sensor in the frame) so that when the units are open, the office's heaters automatically turn off.

In addition to ample use of natural ventilation and daylight, energy-efficient lamps and ballasts, including motion and ambient light sensors help control lighting levels. "This building uses 27 to 40% less electricity than a conventional structure," says Aigner. It surpasses the Title 24 requirements for energy efficiency standards by more than 31%.

This commitment to the environment extends to the suppliers chosen to work on Bren Hall. At Wausau, all aluminum chips, sawing drops and obsolete materials are recycled for use in a myriad of non-architectural applications (truck/trailer parts, structural shapes, etc.) Recycled aluminum requires only 5% of the energy of refining prime aluminum - the reduction of one ton of metallic aluminum from alumina via the Hall Process requires 20,000-kilowatt hours of electrical energy.

(more)

(page 2/Wausau Provides Window System for University of California)

While aluminum has rather high ‘embodied energy’, it compares very favorably to other materials using a balanced environmental scorecard. Aluminum windows and walls can be designed for excellent energy efficiency. Its lifecycle in the building is long, requiring minimal maintenance or chemical treatment. Aluminum can be easily recycled, generates no toxic by-products, and is readily recovered and re-used, as evidenced by its high scrap value.

This earth-focused approach continues throughout Bren Hall. All paints, adhesives, and finishes in the building exceed the Air Quality Standards set forth in 2005. Additionally, the LEED Rating System encouraged exploration of other sustainable design strategies. “We feel this is the next step in commercial building construction,” said Mo Lovegreen, assistant dean of planning for the university.

Saluting the university’s efforts, Congresswoman Lois Capps of California noted, “This building is a role model not only for UCSB, but also for other university campuses throughout the state and the country.”

The building has three floors of teaching and research laboratories and four floors of offices. Each floor of the building blends disciplinary boundaries to reflect the School’s strong commitment to interdisciplinary study. In this same spirit, ample provision is made for space where faculty, students and visitors can interact and exchange ideas.

“The Bren School will be a ‘living laboratory’ for sustainable ‘green’ building practices and materials,” says Aigner.

“This building will be a model for all future construction on the campus,” echoed Henry Yang, Chancellor of UCSB.

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation. For more information on Wausau Window and Wall Systems, please call 877-678-2983, or visit www.WausauWindow.com.

###