

Letter from the Editor:

By now you know green spaces command higher rents and sell for more compared to similar conventional buildings. But LEED certification is not the only route to minimizing environmental impact. Going green is not as expensive as you might think; there are many smaller, less expensive ways to take significant steps to 'green up' a space, helping it stand out from the competition and attract more tenants. In this issue, I examine how inexpensive efforts can yield results. Read on for more information.

Lori Eichel
President
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Choose Vendors who Walk the Green Walk

As the green movement picks up steam, organizations of all kinds are moving to improve their own business practices. Many vendors, such as [HVAC](#) professionals, [plumbers](#) and [landscapers](#) have adopted energy efficient practices and can help you install systems that save resources and money. At Accent, we practice reuse and recycling as a matter of course. By separating materials that can be recycled and kept out of landfills, we contribute to the sustainability of all the projects we complete, green or not. Our practices have diverted many tons of waste from entering North Carolina landfills.

Assess for Reuse and Recycling Opportunities

Whether it's a remodel or up fit project, the first step of the process should be an assessment of existing materials and finishes. Many materials, such as windows, carpets, furniture and metals can be incorporated into the new structure. This not only reduces the amount of building waste going into landfills, but it saves the project bottom line by eliminating the need to purchase new materials. The [Lifecycle Building Challenge](#) can help architects and builders identify and anticipate what

building components can be reused in future projects.

Incorporate Small Changes with Big Benefits

Other small changes can help raise any building's green quotient. In office space, replace standard bulbs with fluorescent compact light bulbs that use less energy. Motion sensors can automatically shut off lights in common spaces that go unoccupied for significant periods of time. Choose refurbished or recycled office furniture rather than purchasing new. [Calculate](#) your water usage and install low-flow faucets and toilets in the restrooms to track conservation.

Next month, in part 2 of How to Make Your Building More Marketable, we'll look at The ENERGY STAR program.

P.S. Check out the new LEED gold certified [visitor's center](#) at the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville.

Green Building News is brought to you by Accent Construction, a full service commercial general contractor focused on providing environmentally-friendly tenant finish for office buildings and medical facilities. Their expertise in reuse/recycle efforts affords clients cost effective and innovative solutions.

Accent is the only general contractor in the state of North Carolina to be awarded EPA Waste Wise partner status and is the winner of the [2008 Small Business Partner of the Year](#). Accent is the only commercial general contractor in North Carolina engaged in separating building materials for recycling and reuse on a consistent basis.

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