



# SUSTAINABLE PROJECT OF THE YEAR

## EXPLANATORY NARRATIVE

The **Sustainable Project of the Year** is in its second year as an **ACE AWARD CATEGORY** for the AGC of Colorado and deserves some explanation.

The intent of this award is to recognize a prime contractor's contribution to a "Sustainable" or "Green Building" project. This is not a design competition, and the highlighting of design features of a project in an award submittal will not by itself gain favor of the judges. The contractor needs to show specific effort and contributions to the design process, construction process, or certification process of a green building organization such as the US Green Building Council (USGBC). The level of certification issued from such an organization, such as LEED Gold or Platinum, does not in and of itself guarantee high marks, in fact it is possible to score high on a project that is not certified at all. Again this award is about the contractors understanding and application of sustainable building practices to a project.

Standards for sustainable building practices have been set by such organizations and programs as Energy Star; USGBC LEED, Green Globes, the AIA Committee on the Environment, the EPA, and ASHRAE and may be consulted at their individual websites. Submittals using strategies and technologies identified by these organizations are encouraged. Creativity is also encouraged.

To help understand the categories of evaluation criteria and targeted project contributions, we give the following submittal examples.

### **Contribution to the Process**

- Contributions to the integration of design
- Suggestion or research of new sustainable materials or systems
- Taking a leading role in a certification process
- Bringing valuable resources, such as knowledgeable subcontractors or vendors, to the design process
- Finding low-cost alternate solutions to necessary items that allow more costly, but environmentally beneficial options (e.g., energy efficiency), to be utilized
- Finding a local manufacturer to add or modify a current product or service to meet the project requirements that previously had not been available in the region

### **Environmental Impact of Buildings and the Construction Process**

- Location and control of office and staging areas
- Minimizing the impact of site disturbance through the selection of non-evasive equipment (e.g., boring vs. trenching)
- Limiting the removal of vegetation or stockpiling of topsoil
- Finding unknown local sources of materials
- Working with manufacturers to increase the recycled content of a product
- Maximizing the efficiency of material deliveries (e.g., full containers or trailers)
- Providing creative pollution solutions not required by the building codes or local jurisdictions (over and above)
- Demolition materials were reused on the project
- High rate of construction waste diversion
- On-site renewable energy used for construction
- Carbon off-set of construction energy
- Use of biodiesel fuel by site and delivery vehicles
- Construction wastewater was captured and reused for air pollution (dust) control
- Energy conservation from fluorescent temporary lighting, off-peak scheduling of energy intensive activities, or programmable thermostats in site trailers.



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### **Education**

- Providing green building education for subcontractors bidding on the project
- Providing building tours for local residents or students
- Providing educational materials to the permanent occupants of the building on the sustainable features of the materials or systems installed
- New sustainable company policies or procedures have been put in place as a result of the learning process of this project
- Green building “lessons learned” from the project were published and distributed to an industry organization or the public

### **Safety and Indoor Air Quality**

- Low jobsite incident rate
- No lost time or major injuries due to safety or indoor air quality
- An indoor air quality plan was developed and carried out for the project following the ASHRAE Best Practices
- Proper ventilation was provided for the workers throughout the entire project
- All moisture absorbing materials were properly protected or stored off site
- Only Low VOC paints, sealers, and adhesives were used on the project
- Smoking was not allowed in enclosed spaces (e.g., building under construction, jobsite offices and where allowed by law)
- A final “flush-out” was performed at the end of the construction process
- Green cleaning practices were used on the project

### **Visual Presentation**

- Communication of the sustainable building practices listed above through the visual presentation