

Blakely Hall earns environmental awards

Blakely Hall, a community center and town hall for Issaquah Highlands, earned its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification and Green Globes Certification in September. Blakely Hall is Weber + Thompson's first project to acquire either certification, and it is the first building in the United States to earn a Green Globes award.

The hall hosts group meetings, classes, workshops and special events such as weddings and city meetings.

"The client's commitment to sustainability is the No. 1 driving

force behind successfully earning certification," said Weber + Thompson principal Kristen Scott, AIA. "Port Blakely was intent on developing a green community center for Issaquah Highlands."

To achieve these certifications, Weber + Thompson integrated several sustainable design strategies into the project. Through studies with daylighting models, Weber + Thompson made the best use of natural daylight rather than relying only on incandescent lighting, resulting in a daylight factor of 2 percent for 85 percent of the project. Low-flow

toilets and fixtures, waterless urinals and water-wise landscaping reduce water usage by 42.45 percent over baseline fixture performance requirements.

The Hall utilized local materials whenever possible, such as the heavy timbers that come from Port Blakely's tree farms showcased in a series of exposed heavy timber trusses and columns in the main hall. In addition to being local, many of the interior materials contain significant recycled content, including the Squak Mountain Stone countertops that are made entirely of recycled materials by Issaquah's

Tiger Mountain Innovations. Implementation of a construction waste management plan by Rafn, contractor for the project, helped divert more than 97 percent waste to uses other than landfill.

Blakely Hall is 7,000 square feet, comprised of offices for management staff, a dramatic central space with a fireplace (and popcorn machine), flexible meetings rooms, community Internet computer stations, and a demonstration kitchen and dining room. Construction was completed in March 2005. The cost of the land and the building was \$2 million.