

Green Building Resources and Energy Efficiency

STATE OF ILLINOIS NEW GREEN GUIDELINES FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

New energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly guidelines for state construction projects have been adopted that will meet strict national “green” building standards, reduce the state's energy usage, and make state buildings better for those who work in them and the area surrounding them.

“Studies show that an investment of just two percent of a construction budget in green building methods and materials can yield an estimated 20 percent savings in energy costs over the life of a structure. Buildings constructed to green standards use less energy, provide healthier and more stimulating environments for occupants, are less harmful to the environment, and are less costly to operate over time,” said Gov. Blagojevich.

Buildings consume 65 percent of our nation's total electricity, emit 30 percent of our total greenhouse gases, and account for nearly 60 percent of total non-industrial waste in the United States.

[The Green Building Guidelines for State Construction](#), developed by the [Illinois Green Building Advisory Committee](#), mandate that all new state-funded building construction and major renovations of existing state-owned facilities are required to meet current Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards that are practical for that project. The Capital Development Board (CDB), which manages all state construction, repair and renovation projects, developed the new guidelines and will oversee their implementation. The guidelines may be accessed at www.cdb.state.il.us.

Exciting new technologies combined with traditional solutions may be seen in future state building projects under the new guidelines. These could include geo-thermal climate control systems, roofs made of heat-reducing white material or covered with live vegetation (“white” and “green” roofs), photovoltaic systems to produce electricity, the use of recycled materials, no water landscaping, and allergen-reducing ventilation and interior finishes.

Under the Green Building Guidelines, the following Illinois specific goals will apply to every project: There will be no development on prime farmland; water use will be reduced by at least 20 percent through the use of high-efficiency fixtures; and energy performance will be improved by set percentages on new and existing buildings. Other guidelines will also apply to specific projects. In addition to the guidelines, a [Measurement & Verification Tool](#) was created to help collect building and site characteristics data and building cost and performance metrics. These are important indicators in tracking and determining the building performance information. [Several state-funded building projects already underway or planned incorporate the new Green Building Guidelines](#). These include the recently-completed Workforce Development Center at Heartland Community College in Normal; the Integrated Bio-Processing Research Laboratory and Lincoln Hall at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; the Transportation Education Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; the Performing Arts Center on the Macomb campus and the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus of Western Illinois University; the Truman College Student Services Center in Chicago;

Links to other valuable info relating to green construction are available via the [Resources Page](#) and the [Illinois Administrative Codes page](#).

Resource Guide Helps Communities Plan Healthy, High-Performance School Buildings

The Capital Development Board, the Illinois State Board of Education and the Healthy Schools Campaign have developed a new resource guide to help school officials, community leaders and concerned parents use state-of-the-art strategies to build schools with lower-cost, high-efficiency systems and healthy environments.

The Illinois Resource Guide for Healthy, High-Performing School Buildings is designed to introduce school districts to the latest ideas and strategies aimed at improving the health and efficiency of new and old schools. A team of building design, construction, energy conservation and facility management experts developed the guide, which will be distributed to local school officials and parents' organizations free of charge.

The guide covers such topics as energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly building systems and materials; comfort and health standards for classrooms; kitchen and cafeteria design; proper air quality and noise levels; "green" cleaning and maintenance; renewable energy sources; water recycling; and school bus use.

Studies show that schools with healthy environments and high-performance design, materials and construction improve student academic performance and attendance; better maintain student and staff health; support healthy lifestyle choices among students and staff; lower operating expenses; reduce the impact on the environment; and serve as excellent teaching examples in science, mathematics and biology.

For more information, to order a copy or to download an electronic copy of the guide, visit the [Healthy Schools Guide](#) page.

ILLINOIS ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE UPDATED TO 2006 IECC AND 2004 ASHRAE 90.1 A USER'S GUIDE

Introduction

The Illinois Energy Conservation Code is designed to help protect the environment and reduce energy consumption. Through this statewide policy, state officials hope to cut pollution, moderate peak energy demand, better assure the reliability of energy supplies and stabilize energy costs. The United States Department of Energy estimates that increased energy efficiency can reduce annual price of energy by 30 percent to 50 percent over 10 to 15 years. For more information [click here](#).

Gov. Blagojevich announces that Lincoln's final resting place is going green

Governor announces geothermal heating and cooling system will be installed at Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site to reduce energy usage and increase visitor comfort. [More>>](#)

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