

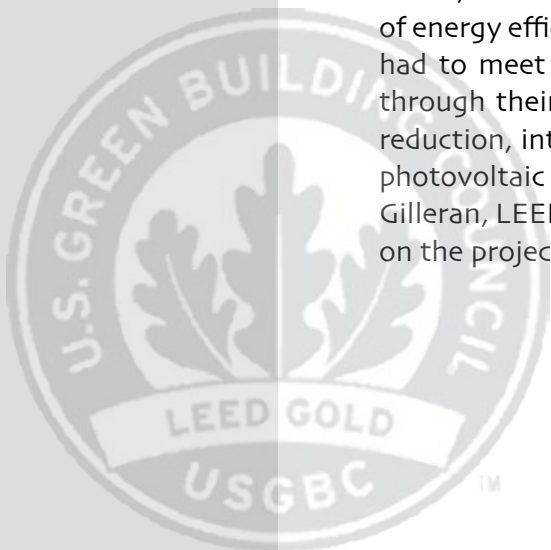


OUR NEW LEED BUILDING – A FIRST IN CALIFORNIA !

## Anderson Valley Community Health Center (AVHC)

has been awarded LEED® Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's leading rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and high performing buildings.

The AVHC is the first Community Health Center in California to be awarded the LEED Gold certification. A local company, Verdier Architects, was chosen as the design team to meet the vision "Light is the Theme". "The maximization of daylight and views from the windows was really important to us for the wellness of both patients and health care professionals", said Judith Dolan, Director of the AVHC. The AVHC Board also required a high standard of energy efficiency and green features in the new building. Verdier Architects had to meet specific prerequisites and criteria to attain LEED certification through their design adherence to regional/renewable materials, water use reduction, interior air quality, non-volatile organic compound paint, a 22kW photovoltaic rooftop array, and many additional green requirements. Kevin Gilleran, LEED AP, of Gilleran Energy Management acted as LEED consultant on the project.



## Anderson Valley Community Health Center (AVHC)

The project consists of a one-story addition of about 4,775 square feet to the Anderson Valley Health Center plus approximately 450 square feet of renovation to the previously existing clinic, which was constructed in 1983. The new structure houses state of the art dental services, mental health and substance abuse services, a multipurpose room, records storage and office spaces, and alternative medicine services. In addition, a new 1,288 square foot Ambulance Services facility houses the Anderson Valley Volunteer Ambulance and EMT staff. The expansion was undertaken by Nonella Construction Company of Santa Rosa who used best practices to ensure the use of sustainable materials and for construction waste management to prevent job-site pollution.

To become LEED certified, the project met specific prerequisites and fulfilled strict criteria to attain sufficient “credits” in design and construction aspects. These included interior air quality, low-emitting materials, use of daylighting, temperature and ventilation controls, use of regional and renewable materials, optimized energy performance, and water use reduction. Green building takes a holistic approach to the building occupants’ well-being, and to the sustainability of the built environment and the surrounding land. In addition, energy efficient building results in lower long-term operating costs. The new Anderson Valley facility features on-site renewable energy through solar panels, which will provide 75 percent of the building’s energy needs. Throughout the building energy performance is optimized with highly efficient heating, cooling and air conditioning systems and techniques. For example, double-pane, low-emissive (low-E) windows insulate the building envelope while preventing heat loss in the winter months.

“Economizer” heating and cooling units are designed with sensors that detect outside air temperature and automatically switch to exterior fresh air when the outside temperature is cool, thus eliminating unnecessary use of conditioned, re-circulated interior air. This system saves energy and utilizes fresh air whenever possible. Energy efficiency also is achieved through daylight sensors that keep lights from coming on when there is sufficient ambient light. When the lights

do come on, a dual-level daylight sensor regulates the amount of light provided. Motion sensors turn lights on at night as needed to prevent energy waste. In addition, sun-shading devices are used to help control light and temperature.

Occupant comfort is enhanced by features such as individual controls for lighting and thermal comfort. A “green light” system informs occupants when the outside and inside temperatures are close to each other, indicating that it is fine to open windows. This system gives occupants fresh air ventilation as well as energy savings. Access to exterior views for more than 98 percent of occupied spaces adds to comfort and well-being. Natural daylight brought deep into the interior of the building also lowers the demand for energy use.

Indoor environmental quality is addressed by using low-emitting materials throughout the building. All paints, coatings and sealants, as well as floor coverings and composite wood materials, meet strict standards designed to minimize occupant exposure to irritants and harmful chemical compounds.

Water use is minimized through highly efficient fixtures, and water-efficient landscaping will require no water use after the first year.

The ground breaking took place in July 2007 and the Anderson Valley community raised \$1.3 million, including a matching grant from the Tides Foundation for \$250,000.00 that launched the funding process. The Board of AVHC worked hard to raise the capital as well to obtain donations of original artwork, furnishings and sustainably harvested &7 milled redwood.

“The green building movement offers an unprecedented opportunity to respond to the most-important challenges of our time, including global climate change, dependence on non-sustainable and expensive sources of energy and threats to human health.” Said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chir, U.S. Green Building Council. “The work of innovation building projects such as the Anderson Valley Health Center is a fundamental driving forces in the green building movement.”



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