

Building GREEN in Greensburg

Kiowa County Commons Building



Courtesy of Joah Bussert, Greensburg GreenTown/PIX 19448

The Kiowa County Commons replaces the old Kiowa County Library and Historical Museum destroyed by the tornado. The new building not only includes a library and museum, but also serves as a location for the Kansas State Extension Service and Community Media Center, which will provide residents with Internet access, live broadcasts of community meetings and local events, and digital media training. The energy-efficient 20,000-square-foot building is expected to consume about 40% less energy than a traditional building of its size and is constructed to meet U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum designation.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FEATURES

- **South- and west-facing windows** allow more natural light into the building and reduce electricity use
- **Extensive awnings and overhangs** control the light and heat entering the building during the day to reduce cooling loads
- **Rooftop light monitors** in the garden area provide controllable natural light from above to save on electricity consumption
- **Insulating concrete form block construction** with an R-22 insulation value helps control the temperature of the building and maximize efficiency
- **Closed loop geothermal system** provides heating and cooling to the building through 48 wells that are each 320 feet deep

RENEWABLE ENERGY FEATURES

- **Thirty-three photovoltaic panels** are attached to three curved steel structures on the roof to produce a total of 4.6 kilowatts of power

WATER EFFICIENCY

- **Low-flow water fixtures** reduce water use throughout the building

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

- **Reclaimed materials** from the original Hunter Drug Store soda fountain are used in the new soda fountain in the lobby
- **Rooftop garden featuring native plants** helps filter and conserve groundwater
- **Rapidly renewable materials** such as bamboo-based woods are used for the vast majority of the building's millwork, including all the shelving in the library

AIR QUALITY AND INDOOR ENVIRONMENT

- **Environmentally friendly toxin free materials** are used throughout the building
- **An energy exchange air circulation system** provides a steady stream of fresh air to the building while minimizing heat exchange with the outside atmosphere



Courtesy of Joah Bussert, Greensburg GreenTown/PIX 19442