



USGBC HEADQUARTERS, Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C.



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Dryer Install Leaves Hands Clean and Green

CHALLENGE: Environmental concerns and regulations are driving more companies as sustainable building continues to rapidly increase in popularity. The demand for LEED certification for building projects is so high that the USGBC has expanded significantly in recent years to accommodate its clients. As a result, they quickly outgrew their former offices and decided to build new headquarters that would embody the founding principles of the organization.

CRITERIA: The U.S. Green Building Council practices what it preaches with new headquarters and desired energy- and water-efficient restrooms. "We knew that this was an opportunity to show our clients what a green building can look like," said Ashley Katz, Communications Coordinator at the USGBC, who moved into the USGBC's new headquarters, located in Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C., in November 2006. "People sometimes assume that a green building won't have the right aesthetics for their organization, but there are a lot of possibilities to explore. These days, green design is very accessible."

INFLUENCES: The building itself is LEED Gold rated, and the 22,000-sq. ft. commercial interior earns the coveted Platinum—the highest rating possible. The head-

quarters was designed by LEED-accredited architects at Perkins+Will and contracted by the James G. Davis Construction Corporation, and boasts 21% recycled materials in its construction. USGBC members also contributed products and services to the project—everything from recycled timbers to cork flooring to lighting controls.

SOLUTION: One of the green attributes of the headquarters came in the form of a contribution from East Longmeadow, Mass.-based company **Excel Dryer**, who donated their new high-speed, energy-efficient Xlerator hand dryers. Just as the USGBC has shed a new light on green building and design, the product has helped to change the way people think about hand dryers.

Because of its new patented technology, the Xlerator works three times faster than conventional dryers while using 80% less energy. Excel Dryer is a USGBC member and proud of the fact that the company's products help facilities qualify for LEED credits, including EA (Earth and Atmosphere) Credit 1, Optimizing Energy Performance—which is now a mandatory credit for all LEED certifications.

"Most people associate hand dryers with frustration and

poor performance, often walking away unsatisfied and with hands that are still not thoroughly dry," said Denis Gagnon, President of Excel Dryer. "The Xlerator has raised users' expectations and is now considered the new industry standard for hand dryers. We're pleased to be a member of the USGBC and join them in proving that green design can be effective and economical, as well as energy-efficient and environmentally friendly."

"The Xlerator was a natural choice for us," said Katz. "We wanted dryers that would limit paper towel use and minimize energy consumption, but we also wanted them to work quickly and thoroughly. Not many hand dryers can make that claim."

Each of the USGBC's restrooms includes an Xlerator as well as water-free urinals, dual-flush toilets and low-flow faucets, resulting in a 40% reduction in water use. "Green design is all about the details—cutting back on waste and resource use wherever possible," said Katz. "Our new headquarters reflect that, from the lobby to the conference rooms to the restrooms. We're excited to show our clients the best of green building in action." Visit www.exceldryer.com or Circle (400).