



## REACH Ashland Youth Center: Designed to LEED Platinum

In designing the REACH Ashland Youth Center, Alameda County found ways to encourage youth involvement, protect the environment, and ultimately supply a range of youth support services in a comfortable, community atmosphere. The REACH Youth Center provides Ashland youth with integrated health services, career development services, and programs to build and express their creativity. The U.S. Green Building Council LEED® Platinum-rated facility design will protect the youth's future by conserving water and energy resources, reducing the impact on the climate, and saving taxpayer dollars.



*The REACH Center complies with the highest criteria set by LEED® Green Building standards.*

*The Center's photovoltaic cells reduce energy costs by \$22,000 annually.*



### Youth Engagement from Design to Operations

The County partnered with its bridging architect to seek input from local youth in the design process, integrating suggestions such as lighter interior glass panels for a more open atmosphere. Local youth have also been hired as REACH employees, further encouraging community engagement and providing professional growth opportunities.

### Comprehensive Programs and Support

The REACH Center features a range of services including a medical and dental clinic, gym with showering facilities, an outdoor amphitheater, recording and dance studios, a computer lab, art room, career development center, and meeting rooms. The Center also has a game room and holds weekly events in the lounge area.

#### CHALLENGES

- Meet the need for comprehensive, accessible youth development and support in this community
- Provide local youth with career opportunities and training
- Meet the County's commitment to the most innovative green building practices

#### SOLUTIONS

- Offer a broad range of services and programs including a medical center, gym, dance and recording studios, and a computer lab
- Employ local youth and provide career development programs and support
- Design to the highest green building standards

#### BENEFITS

- On-site health, dental, and counseling brings care directly to youth
- Music and art programs build creativity and personal development, while career support boosts professional growth
- Energy efficient design saves over 136,000 kWh/year

# The Youth Center's Green Features

The REACH Ashland Youth Center's wide range of green features simultaneously provides a clean, healthy atmosphere for youth and reduces long-term environmental impacts.

## RENEWABLE AND REDUCED ENERGY USE

- A solar array on the roof produces 52,000 kWh of electricity, equivalent to the needs of more than 6 California homes
- Building designed to be 42% more efficient than required by California's stringent energy efficiency standards

## SAVING WATER

- **Outdoors:** Bay Friendly landscaping and high efficiency irrigation reduce water usage by 50%
- **Indoors:** Low flow faucets, showers and toilets reduce indoor water usage by 30%
- Stormwater is collected from the roof and directed to planter boxes to be filtered and cleaned before leaving the site

## REDUCING WASTE

- 75% of the construction waste was diverted from the landfill for recycling

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

- Readily accessible by four bus lines
- Bicycle parking spaces and shower/changing facility provided for staff and visitors
- Three preferred parking spaces are provided for fuel efficient vehicles

## HIGH INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- An indoor air quality management plan for construction prevented ductwork and HVAC equipment dust contamination and kept building materials clean and dry
- Interior building materials, finishes and furniture are low in VOCs and other interior pollutants
- Walk-off mats were installed at all entries to prevent dirt from entering the building

## BUYING GREEN

- 20% of materials used throughout the building include recycled content
- 10% of materials used in the building were harvested or extracted locally, reducing transportation related greenhouse gas emissions
- A Green Housekeeping policy requires purchase of environmentally preferable products



*REACH's green roof keeps the local environment cool*

## GREEN ROOF OFFERS DUAL BENEFIT

The Center's roof and site surfaces are designed to reduce the amount of heat absorbed from the sun. This is done by using a vegetated roof area and white reflective roofing material. Dark roofs and pavement absorb solar radiation during the day then radiate heat at night causing urban areas to be uncomfortably hot. The Center's green roof features a double benefit for the environment, both reducing the building's contribution to increased urban temperatures and decreasing storm water runoff. Conventional roofing techniques also raise indoor temperatures, so REACH's green roof will reduce its energy costs as well as its environmental impact.

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