

Green Building

Washington Public Utility Districts Association

Location: Olympia

General contractor: Mountain Construction

Owner/developer: WPUDA

Architect: Helix Design Group

Engineers: Sunset Air, Sitts & Hill, Olympic Associates

Contract amount: \$4 million

The Washington Public Utility Districts Association wanted to make a statement about environmental conservation with its new headquarters. It considered silver or maybe gold LEED certification, but after consulting with Mountain



Photo courtesy of Mountain Construction

Mountain Construction installed 159 solar power panels on the roof of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association headquarters in Olympia. It is the largest such system in the state.

Construction's design-build team, the team decided to aim higher. The result is the first new LEED platinum building in Washington.

Among the many state-of-the-art elements is the building's roof. Mountain Construction installed 159 roof-mounted solar power panels, the largest such system in Washington. These generate half of the building's power requirements. When the panels produce surplus power, it is sold back to the grid. Plus, the standing seam roof is rated by the Cool Roof Rating Council. It reduces heat absorption and buildup, thereby reducing the urban heat-island effect.

WPUDA told Mountain Construction: "Your firm has demonstrated high standards of professionalism, expertise and creativity. It is a credit to your firm that the project was finished on time and on budget, especially since the solar power system and other features needed to achieve LEED platinum were added after design was well under way."

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