



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

The Museum of Clean
Pocatello, Idaho

2013

Environmental Commitment

The Museum of Clean was created with the idea that limiting the museum's impact to the environment was not only a good thing to do, but that it was complimentary to the values and mission of the museum itself: to sell the idea and value of clean to all those who visit. As the museum proclaims, "We want to expand the scope of clean into areas like clean homes, clean minds, clean language, clean community, and a clean world."

Pollution Prevention Success

The Museum of Clean was conceived, designed, and built with environmental sustainability at the forefront of the development effort. Housed in a former warehouse originally constructed in 1915, the museum was brought to life with a focus on reducing the building's current and future environmental impact and remediating the impacts the building's previous uses had on the site. The museum is currently seeking LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum level certification, the highest possible recognition from the United States Green Building Council. If achieved, it would be only one of three nonresidential buildings in Idaho to achieve such distinction.

Improving Indoor Air Quality

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are substances that have low boiling points and high vapor pressures. When contained in products such as paints and coatings, VOCs will evaporate when applied to surfaces or when otherwise released from their containers. VOCs can contribute to poor air quality and cause negative health effects.¹ When choosing how to add color to the exhibits and space in the Museum of Clean, the museum chose low-VOC paint to reduce the impact of the paint on the quality of the indoor air. In total, the Museum of Clean was able to reduce VOCs sourced from paint by 87%, or nearly 7,800 pounds.

Saving Electricity

The energy use of the entire building was analyzed for possible efficiency improvements when designing and building the museum. From heating and ventilation to lighting and insulation, the museum has managed to put together a portfolio of energy-efficient features that has few rivals in Idaho. Among these features are ultra-efficient LED lights for external illumination; insulation with a high thermal resistance, including concrete and windows; and motion-activated lights.

Diverting Waste

To build the museum, elements of the existing building needed to be removed or replaced. The Museum of Clean was successfully able to reuse 85% of the existing building material to make the building brand new. In total, 25 tons of steel, 15 tons of concrete, 10 tons of construction material, and 2 tons of wood beams were reused in creating the museum.

¹ http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html#Health_Effects

Conserving Water

Water use is a critical issue in Idaho, and finding ways to reduce water consumption and reuse what would normally be considered wastewater is something that impacts far more than just the organization committing to curbing its water use. The Museum of Clean has designed the entire building and outside landscaping to be water efficient, using rainwater to irrigate landscaping and flush the toilets in the building. Using low-water, drought-tolerant plants has also helped to significantly reduce the water demands of the building. All water falling on the roof areas of the building will be collected and stored in a 130,000- gallon cistern system for future reuse to irrigate the lawn and garden areas as well as flushing toilets in the building.

Remediating Past Land Uses

The site that was selected for the Museum of Clean was occupied and used for various functions for nearly 100 years. Some of these activities contributed to soil contamination on and surrounding the property. To begin construction, the Museum of Clean removed over 3,400 cubic yards of contaminated soil. In doing so, the museum has improved the existing conditions on the site and protected the surrounding area from further contamination.

For More Information

To learn more about the Museum of Clean's pollution prevention efforts, visit its website at <http://museumofclean.com.s158603.gridserver.com/>.

Information on this fact sheet represents an example of pollution prevention projects undertaken by Idaho organizations and does not constitute Departmental certification or approval of compliance at this or any other time with federal, state and/or local regulations.