


NC DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

February 9, 2007

**STAFF DIRECTIVE 07-01**

TO: Administrative Staff  
Section Chiefs  
Program Managers  
District Superintendents

FROM: Lewis R. Ledford, Director 

SUBJECT: Sustainable and Green Building Practices

As part of the Division's on-going efforts to promote planning and construction practices of infrastructure and buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live, work and enjoy. The citizens of North Carolina deserve our commitment to do all that is reasonable and practical to inspire and enable its staff and visitors to become stewards of their natural and cultural worlds. Our plans and projects should be beautiful and sustainable, humane and functional, and responsive to the identity of North Carolina, along with the cultural and natural forces in the region. This directive is also consistent with DENR's commitment to become an exemplary model and a leader in implementing the state's initiatives for environmental stewardship as outlined in the DENR POLICY, Administration Section, Sustainable and Green Building Practices, effective March 3, 2004.

The Division is to pursue LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification through the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Green Building Rating System (and/or any new or revised subsequent guidance and certification for environmentally sustainable construction) for all new, or significantly renovated, buildings having 5000 SF or more. For buildings less than 5,000 SF project team members are to be familiar with the use of LEED as a tool to help guide the project.

Sustainable and green buildings typically require some additional services and result in additional deliverables. In most cases, additional costs are recovered within a few years based upon energy savings and other factors. Aggressive efforts, such as qualifying for gold or platinum LEED certification, or other certifications deemed appropriate, may require longer-term payback analyses. While multiple types of environmentally sound innovative building technology may be considered, the Division is particularly interested in technologies that address the following:

- Ecological site design; on-site erosion control, water purification/pollution reduction, and stormwater management.
- Transportation; promoting bicycle, pedestrian and transit use where possible.
- Waste Reduction; building reuse, job site recycling and efficient use of materials.
- On-site management of sewage and organic wastes, such as graywater systems and biological wastewater treatment.



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- Energy efficiency; efficient thermal envelopes, efficient space and water heating, lighting, controls and monitoring and appliances.
- Renewable energy; photovoltaics, geothermal pumps, and wind turbines.
- Water efficiency, both domestic and irrigation, including rainwater harvesting for irrigation and toilet flushing. Consider waterless urinals in all applications.
- Materials and resources; durable building envelopes and long-lived materials or assemblies, recycled-content materials, safer, less toxic materials, such as alternatives to CCA-treated wood, innovative application of natural materials (characterized by low embodied energy, local availability, good performance, biodegradable, safe, esthetic,) such as straw, earth, and other composites.
- Indoor environmental quality, pollution reduction, worker and occupant safety, air cleaning, humidity control, and thermal comfort.
- Operations and maintenance; monitoring energy, water, waste, air quality, and transportation use along with resource-efficient operation practices.

Any questions or comments concerning this directive should be addressed to the Chief of the Design and Development Section.

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