

## **Carbondale Colorado Recreation & Community Center Seeks LEED's Highest Status**

*The Carbondale, CO Recreation & Community Center is seeking Platinum LEED certification. The center applied for LEED's highest level certification because of its energy saving features and close to zero carbon footprint.*

**Nov. 7, 2008** - [PRLog](#) -- The Town of Carbondale Recreation & Community Center hums with activity while waiting for the official response to its application for Platinum LEED certification. This fall the Carbondale center hopes to receive certification of the highest level LEED status because of its energy saving features and close to zero carbon footprint. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council and the most widely recognized standard worldwide for sustainable, high-performance, low-energy-use buildings.

When it opened in March, the rec center became just the second building in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley seeking LEED certification. Three years in planning, the rec center's strategic location easily draws residents from the central business district and an adjacent promenade walkway which leads to a popular bike trail.

Reaching the highest level of LEED certification eligibility demonstrates the spirit and commitment of Carbondale says the project's architect John Baker.

"Carbondale is conscientious about energy conservation and sustainable practices," notes Baker. "Currently there may be about 70 LEED Platinum new construction projects in the country or maybe worldwide and none of them are community centers that I'm aware of. It's very prestigious recognition."

The main feature of the 14,500-square-foot building is its 8,000-square-foot multi-use gym and performance center which doubles as the largest indoor space in Carbondale. Use of a floor-to-ceiling curtain enables maximum usage and splits the gym from a high school regulation size basketball court into two half-court basketball courts or two volleyball courts. Versatility describes the activities scheduled in the gym and the Taraflex® Sport Performance Plus flooring that accommodates all of them. On a daily basis the program rotation includes basketball and volleyball practices and games, indoor soccer matches, group fitness classes such as senior fitness, yoga, Pilates, indoor cycling, kickboxing, core ball, stroller strides or Tae Kwon Do.

Carbondale's Recreation Director Jeff Jackel voices enthusiasm about the Taraflex floor.

"I think the biggest feature has been its multipurpose use versus a maple wood floor," explains Jackel. "I think Taraflex's appearance takes the look of wood but it gives us the ability to hold a variety of activities. And, yet it still has the same rebound as a regular wood floor for basketball and volleyball. Another nice thing is we don't have any dead spots."

Eric Brendlinger, center manager, adds that residents are responding positively. "Users like the cushioning aspect of the floor and enjoy playing basketball and volleyball on its surface," he says.

Sports make up a percentage of the center's activities. In just a few months, the center has already held birthday parties, concerts, a film fest, wedding receptions, board meetings, catered meal events and school group programs.

The flooring chosen for the gym contributed LEED credits because of its low VOC (volatile organic compound) level, recycled content and low water and energy use requirements. Now in place, the Taraflex Sport Performance Plus floor gives Carbondale residents durability and comfort. Its Maple Design surface adds to the brightness of the airy light-filled center.

Other amenities include a weight and exercise room, climbing wall, on-site child care area, kitchen and showers. Ground was broken on the 3.2 acre site in March 2007 and the facility cost \$4.2 million funded by a local revenue bond and series of grants from public and private entities.

Carbondale's trustees, recreation director, the center's architect and energy consultant began discussing location in 2005. By early 2006 the focus expanded to investigating the feasibility of achieving LEED

certification. The project progressed to the Silver and then Gold levels when additional private funding materialized for the rooftop photovoltaic (solar) energy system. As documentation was completed for each portion of the project and educational tools were incorporated enough additional points accumulated to apply for the Platinum certification. It requires from 52 to 69 points and Carbondale submitted documentation for 53 points.

“I’m very proud of it,” says Baker. “Everybody loves the facility.”

Visitors can learn about the building’s green features themselves. Guided and self-guided “Green Education” tours go through the building which has signs identifying energy-saving designs. A touch screen monitor in the lobby displays the solar power generated by the rooftop system.

“Contributing to this potential LEED Platinum project demonstrates the growing awareness of the resource saving features of Taraflex flooring,” says Nicolas Bauer, Gerflor’s national sports marketing manager. “While fulfilling the planners’ “green expectations,” Carbondale’s residents are discovering Taraflex’s benefits also include consistent performance for sports and other activities.”

Baker plans to share Carbondale’s design and building experience. He is creating a brochure and CD to send to other communities and hopes the recreation center’s forward thinking design earns its architectural and recreational facility recognition.

El Paso Floor, Inc. of Colorado Springs, CO installed the Taraflex Sport Performance Plus floor in the Carbondale Recreation & Community Center.

Taraflex Sport Performance Plus is nine-millimeter-thick synthetic flooring with up to 43% recycled content and 100% recyclable. Gerflor Sports Flooring, LLC manufactures Sport Performance Plus with energy efficient processes that exclude all heavy metals. Its two permanent proprietary product treatments provide anti-bacterial and anti-fungicidal protection to reduce the risk of skin-related infections such as MRSA and simplify maintenance to damp daily mopping with a reduced amount of water and an occasional automatic scrubbing with an environmentally-safe alkaline detergent. Low VOC adhesives and game line paint can be used with Sport Performance Plus. Available in 17 colors, it has a 41% shock-absorption rate.

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Gerflor Sports Flooring manufactures Taraflex, the world leader in indoor synthetic sports and multipurpose flooring. The Taraflex line includes 14 different products designed for superior performance, durability, easy maintenance and with recycled content. More than 325 million square feet of Taraflex flooring has been installed around the world.

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