

## 'GO GREEN' A MANTRA AT MSUFCU



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

**Green building:** The MSU Federal Credit Union headquarters has many green features, including high-efficiency glass and other design features that have led to achieving LEED certification as a gold building from the U.S. Green Building Council.

# Credit union headquarters earns LEED certification

## Energy-efficient features earn site a gold-level rating

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EAST LANSING — Drought-resistant landscaping, a high-tech air filtration system and an eco-friendly roof.

Those are some of the more notable features designed to make Michigan State University Federal Credit Union's headquarters near U.S. 127

more environmentally friendly.

And the effort seems to be paying off. In addition to saving money, the headquarters has landed the credit union a gold-level rating through the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program.

LEED certification is a nationally recognized designation for incorporating environmentally conscious features. The gold level is

## WHAT IS LEED

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program:

### Criteria

► **New commercial and institutional buildings:** construction activity pollution prevention, water use reduction, energy performance, storage and collection of recyclables and minimum indoor air quality performance

### Levels

Projects receive points for various features, with 110 total possible points.

► **Certified:** 40-49 points

► **Silver:** 50-59 points

► **Gold:** 60-79 points

► **Platinum:** 80 points or more

Source: U.S. Green Building Council

the second-highest available.

"It really started with us looking for a design that would be employee friendly, kind of an open, airy look that would create a lot of natural light," said credit union President and CEO Pat McPharlin. "Once you start looking at the LEED requirements on water usage, reduced electric usage, air quality and things like that, they just all make a whole lot of sense for the right environmental rea-

## LEED rating

The environmentally-friendly building features drought-resistant landscaping, a high-tech air filtration system, and an eco-friendly roof.



sons, and in the long run, economical reasons."

The roughly 135,000-square-foot MSU credit union building opened in September 2008 on 33 acres off West Road near U.S. 127 in northern East Lansing.

The only other gold-rated building in the Lansing area is General Motor Co.'s Lansing Delta Township assembly plant. Christman

# MSUFCU: Credit union earns green recognition

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Co.'s headquarters in downtown Lansing has two platinum ratings — the highest level.

LEED ratings bring more than just bragging rights. For the credit union, it means \$42,750 in annual electric and natural gas savings compared with what a standard code-built facility would rack up.

The indoor plumbing is set up to use 40 percent less potable water, and the outdoor irrigation system consumes 69 percent less potable water.

Credit union spokeswoman Joyce Banish said she's noticed employees tend to have fewer headaches and

## LOCAL LEED-CERTIFIED BUILDINGS

### LEED PLATINUM

- ▶ Christman Co. headquarters in downtown Lansing. The renovated 1928 building has two platinum certifications — one for the shell and exterior and one for Christman's office space.

### LEED GOLD

- ▶ General Motors Co.'s Lansing Delta Township assembly plant
- ▶ MSU Federal Credit Union

Source: U.S. Green Building Council

illnesses because of the efficient air filtration system.

"The university did a study before and after we moved in (about) employee attitudes," Banish said. "There was a strong support that building

headquarters.

### LEED SILVER

- ▶ Michigan State University's chemistry building annex
- ▶ Peckham Inc.'s manufacturing facility in Lansing
- ▶ Christman Co. building's tenant space (Michigan Municipal League and Kelley Cawthorne)
- ▶ Delta Township District Library

green really did contribute to the wellness and health of our employees."

Some aspects associated with LEED — reduced impact on the environment, improved work environment

and eventual cost savings — are convincing more developers to go green, said Tim Dempsey, director of the city of East Lansing's planning and community development.

The green market accounted for 2 percent of nonresidential construction starts in 2005, and 10 percent to 12 percent in 2008, according to the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council. That is expected to be 20 percent to 25 percent by 2013.

In East Lansing, any project that receives incentives from the city must incorporate LEED standards.

The credit union didn't receive any incentives, deciding to make the move on its own.



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**At MSUFCU:** Human Resources Specialist Susan Sleight exercises Tuesday in the gymnasium at the MSU Federal Credit Union headquarters. The building has been recognized with a LEED gold rating for its efficiency.