



Memorandum

TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Erin Mahoney
Commissioner, Environmental Services
DATE: January 25, 2017
RE: **Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre LEED®
Platinum Certification**

Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre becomes first LEED® Platinum Certified building owned by the Region

The Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Platinum certification by the Canada Green Building Council. Platinum is the highest level of certification in the LEED® green building rating system. This is the first LEED® Platinum certification we have achieved for a Region-owned building.

In addition to its innovative design, the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre strives to achieve the following positive outcomes:

- Net zero energy use through the use of solar panels, the building aims to generate as much or more energy than it uses on an annual basis
- Net zero water use through a storage tank to gather rainwater and snow melt incorporated into the facility to service bathroom fixtures
- The facility is built almost entirely of wood using sustainably harvested Forest Stewardship Council certified materials and all-wood structural elements
- A unique green building to host forest education programs through classroom learning, tours and events
- Diversion of 94 per cent of facility construction waste from landfill

Award-winning Forest Stewardship and Education Centre demonstrates Council leadership

The LEED® Platinum certification adds to a growing list of awards already won by the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre. To date the facility has received the following awards:

- 2016 – Ontario Public Works Association Project of the Year in the area of Historic Restoration and Preservation
- 2016 – Professional Engineers of Ontario (York Region Chapter) - Engineering Project of the Year
- 2015 Green Building Wood Design Award by Ontario Wood Works

The realization of the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre is the culmination of Council support and cross organizational support to create a facility that represents York Region's passion for protecting the environment. Monitoring facility performance has commenced, which will support the Region's application to the Living Building Challenge, the world's most rigorous proven performance standard for buildings.

Erin Mahoney
Commissioner, Environmental Services

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