



Environmentally Sensitive and Safe Industry - LEED Green Building Rating

GOING GREEN!

In support of our City Council's unanimous resolution in September 2007 to encourage "clean technology companies" to locate in the former Sacramento Army Depot area, Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC, has taken action to secure a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification for its new underground natural gas storage facility. Throughout the United States and around the world, the LEED designation is the hallmark of projects that are environmental-conscious in their design and operation.

As a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, the sponsor of the LEED program, SNGS viewed the attainment of a LEED certification for its project as a natural process. The background for its decision is well-stated by the Council itself. "Green design not only makes a positive impact on public health and the environment, it also reduces operating costs, enhances building and organization marketability, potentially increases occupant productivity, and helps create a sustainable community." These objectives mesh well with the SNGS Mission Statement.

The LEED system is entirely voluntary, and includes a rating system by which a project's impact on the environment can be objectively evaluated by a LEED Accredited Professional. There are four rating levels that may be achieved, including Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum. The initial survey of the SNGS project indicated that a Silver-level could be obtained based upon SNGS's current plans for the project. Upon review by the SNGS Board, the company's management has been directed to go a step further and explore possible means of achieving the even higher level of Gold Certification.

It is expected that the SNGS underground natural gas storage facility will be the first such facility in the country to achieve a LEED certification.