



## Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# CEM Design

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Architecture Firm

Member since September 2009

### Management and Leadership

**Environmental Team**

*Each of our employees attends weekly updates on building design project progress, which is both a learning experience, and an opportunity to share new knowledge and experience. Each of our employees is encouraged to pursue LEED certification and licensure. Employee education is 100% reimbursed.*

**Annual Goals**

*The practice of architecture is an inherently paper intensive profession. In 2009, we made a commitment to utilize quantifiably less paper.*

**Environmentally Preferable Procurement**

*We have an on-going program to reduce the carbon footprint of our office by utilizing high efficiency electronic equipment and lighting, and purchasing carbon offsets for interstate travel. We also purchase paper with 50% or greater recycled content.*

**Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

*At CEM Design, we focus primarily on historic restoration and renovation and environmentally sustainable "green" design. While these may seem to be very different areas of expertise, we believe they are essentially complimentary. The most sustainable building conserves and reuses the embodied energy of an existing building. Our corporate culture of sustainability extends back to 1986,*

*when we designed our first passive solar home in Potomac, MD, long before it became popular. Since then, we have designed numerous passive and active solar buildings, both commercial and residential. We designed a home powered by photovoltaics in Leonardtown, MD under the Million Solar Roofs program, that was partially funded by the SMECO. We designed a high-tech passive and active solar home in Gunnison, CO, and a passively cooled home in central Florida. We designed our first geothermally heated and cooled building in 2002.*

**Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*In 2001, we designed a community center for the City of Rockville that was the first building in the city designed to LEED Certified standards. This was not a requirement of the City, but we felt it was the right thing to do. The President of CEM Design serves as a volunteer on the City of Rockville Historic District Commission, which is charged under Article 66B of the State of Maryland code with preservation of the historic resources of the City. Our employees are encouraged to participate in local preservation and environmental projects. We regularly teach seminars on energy conservation and alternative energy utilization to community groups and the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.*

**Waste**

**Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse**

*To reduce paper use, we use FTP protocols for sending documents to engineers, consultants, contractors, and reviewers whenever possible. We email clients PDF files for contracts, billing, and plan review, and maintain an on-line plan room with limited access. Our production of waste paper has been reduced by more than 50%, reducing our paper costs by at least 50%.*

**Recycling**

*One hundred percent of our paper, plastic, glass and metal waste is recycled through the City of Rockville and all of our compostable food waste is composted on site. We also recycle compact fluorescent bulbs by taking them to our local recycling facility.*

## Energy

**Energy Efficiency**

*We converted the office heating system from a 1930's vintage oil-fired boiler to a 98% efficient natural gas fired boiler. The air conditioning system is a new 19 SEER rated system. We've used ENERGY STAR rated computers and high-efficiency lighting in our office for so many years, that no real savings can be quantified.*

**Renewable Energy**

*We purchase 100% of our electrical energy from a wind farm in western Maryland.*

## Transportation

**Employee Commute**

*Whenever possible, our employees are encouraged to work from home. We provide bicycle storage, and shower and changing facilities on site for bicycle commuters. We are within 100-yds. of a bus route, and less than a mile from a subway route.*

**Efficient Business Travel**

*We use teleconferencing for weekly meetings on all of our remote clients or projects. This eliminates the need for physical meetings, and can eliminate the need for project site visits.*

**Fleet Vehicles**

*Our office car is a gas/electric hybrid.*

## Water

**Water Conservation**

*All plumbing fixtures are high-efficiency low-flow.*

**Stormwater Management and Site Design**

*Our building is on approximately ½-acre, but our office footprint is a mere 600 sq. ft. The balance of the site is heavily vegetated, and serves as a local storm water absorption area.*

**Other**



*We are corporate members of the USGBC, Energy Star Partners, and Green America.*

**Awards:** *The passive solar addition we designed for a 1901 farmhouse in Dickerson, MD won an award from a local preservation organization, and was featured on Old Homes Restored, on the HGTV network.*

*We have also won a number of Preservation Awards for the restoration and adaptive reuse of properties in Maryland.*

**Community Service:** *Commissioner, Historic District Commission, City of Rockville, MD, 1996 to present. Committee member – Sandy Spring Friends School Environmental Sustainability Committee, Sandy Spring, MD.*

**Profile Updated July 2014**



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [www.green.maryland.gov/registry](http://www.green.maryland.gov/registry)*

