

Green Notes

OGC Receives Silver-Level LEED Certification

MONTRÉAL—Outdoor Gear Canada, distributor of cycling, outdoor, snow and power sports products to the Canadian market, has earned silver-level LEED certification for its headquarters in Montréal. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Canada was adapted from the U.S. model by the Canada Green Building Council and rates environmentally friendly buildings taking into consideration sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources

and indoor environmental quality. It offers three-tiered certification—gold, silver and bronze—for green construction. OGC's 82,000-square-foot building, made up of a renovated warehouse and newly constructed offices, was completed in July 2007. Staff moved into the new digs in October of that same year. "The Canadian Green Building Council has been backed up," said David Bowman, president of OGC. "It took a year and a half to do the audit." Plans for the project were set three years ago. OGC hired an architect, LEED consultants and a general contractor to demolish the old structure and construct the new building from the ground up, Bowman said. The cost was significantly greater—an estimated \$8 million for the land, existing structure and all renovations—but savings will over time more than offset the higher construction costs, Bowman said. Lighting in the warehouse should generate annual savings of about \$40,000 in electricity and insulation should cut down heating costs by \$18,000 a year. Geothermal heating and cooling should save about \$7,000 annually. Bowman said being green also physically feels good. "We've had a cool winter but it's as snug as can be in here," he said.



OGC's warehouse uses motion detector lights in its aisles.

University of Oregon Launches Bike Program

EUGENE, OR—The University of Oregon is the latest campus to encourage its students to go by bike. It launched its Bike Loan Program last September, which allows students to borrow bikes for one to three terms. The only cost is a \$65 deposit on the bike. The Department of Public Safety collects bikes that have been abandoned on campus for the Outdoor Program, which administers the Bike Loan Program. Volunteers refurbish the bikes and outfit them with lights, fenders, locks, baskets and helmets for the college commuter. The Bike Loan Program also runs a maintenance shop where students can tinker on their loaner bikes for free. The goal of the program is to increase access to affordable, reliable and sustainable transportation. "Through the integration of long-term bicycle loans, education, and recreation, the BLP will enhance the physical and cultural development of students. As a resource for alternative transportation, we will minimize our campus and community environmental impact," the school's Outdoor Program Web site says.

Yakima Uses Recycled Plastic in Cargo Boxes

BEAVERTON, OR—Yakima cemented its promise to sustainability by introducing several new green products this season. The Yakima LoPro cargo box is made from 80 percent recycled plastic and uses solar light technology, the first of its kind in the cargo box category. Also, Yakima unveiled a new rendition of its RocketBox series that's made of 80 percent recycled plastic. Yakima now makes all the models in its cargo box line with recycled plastic. "We are working hard to help pave the way in sustainability for the vehicle rack and cargo categories and will continue to expand upon these initiatives by constantly exploring new technologies and materials," said Mike Steck, senior director of customer marketing and sustainability for Yakima. So far, the LoPro is Yakima's only product that integrates solar technology with the SolLight, which automatically illuminates the box when it's opened. The LoPro and recycled cargo boxes expand on Yakima's company-wide sustainability initiatives and Planet Payback program.