



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
**LIBRARY NEWS**

Peter V. Persic, Public Information Director 213 228-7555  
630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles CA 90071 • Fax: 213 228-7569

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PRESS CONTACT: (213) 228-7555

## **Silver Lake Branch Awarded Platinum LEED Certificate for Sustainable Construction**

***Only Four Buildings in Los Angeles have Received Platinum Designation Recognizing the Highest Level of Green Design***

The U. S. Green Building Council has presented the Los Angeles Public Library's Silver Lake Branch with a Platinum Level LEED ([Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design](#)) certificate, an award recognizing the highest-level of environmentally sustainable design and construction. Only four buildings in the City of Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles Public Library's Lake View Terrace Branch, have received the Platinum Level LEED designation.

[The LEED green building rating system is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable building designs.](#)

The Silver Lake Branch was built to have minimal impact on the environment through the use of recycled materials and features that conserve energy and water. Designed by M2A Milofsky, Michali & Cox and opened in November 2009, the Silver Lake Branch is among five Los Angeles Public Library facilities to receive a LEED designation: Lake View Terrace Branch (Platinum Level, 2005), Sun Valley Branch (Gold Level, 2005), Harbor City – Harbor Gateway Branch Library (Certified Level, 2008), and Exposition Park - Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library, (Gold Level, 2009).

“The Platinum Level LEED certificate is truly an honor for the Los Angeles Public Library and the people of Los Angeles,” said City Librarian Martín Gómez. “The Silver Lake Branch successfully demonstrates how we can enrich our neighborhoods by combining premium library services with smart technologies and sound environmental

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practices. The Silver Lake Branch is a model for other libraries across the country and around the world.”

The Silver Lake Branch’s “green” features include low-flow plumbing and irrigation to reduce water use by 30 percent; special mechanical systems, a new photovoltaic skylight system that makes the building 20 percent more energy efficient; and the extensive use of rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo for construction. The building also features an environmental resource exhibit area that provides information on the power generated by the solar panel system. *[See attachment for more information.]* Many of these same features are incorporated into the other LEED certified branch libraries.

The Silver Lake Branch Library is one of seven additional projects funded through savings from a \$335-million Library bond construction program, which also funded construction of the four other LEED-certified branch libraries. The construction program, begun in 1989, rebuilt more than 90 percent of the city’s libraries, expanding the number of branch libraries from 63 to 72.

The program is the result of a successful partnership between the Los Angeles Public Library and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works’ Bureau of Engineering. To date, the Bureau has overseen 53 LEED projects that include police stations, fire stations, animal care facilities, bomb squad facilities, an emergency operations center, an air operations center, libraries, neighborhood City Halls, community centers, gymnasiums and the new Police Administration Building. This represents over \$1 billion in construction, and about 1.5 million square feet of space. As of today, 42 projects have achieved their LEED ratings, 25 at the Certified level, 7 at the Silver level, 8 at the Gold level, and 2 at the Platinum level.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, over six million books, and state-of-the-art technology including its Web site at [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org), provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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## Silver Lake Branch LEED Features

The following outlines a few of the design features employed at the Silver Lake Branch to attain Platinum certification.

- 1. Alternative Transportation:** A shower and changing room have been provided for library employees who choose to cycle to work.
- 2. Landscape & Exterior Design to Reduce Heat Island:** Additional shade trees, covered parking and “Energy Star” reflective roof were provided to reduce the site’s heat absorption.
- 3. Light spill:** Fixtures were selected to reduce horizontal and vertical light spill to help preserve “night sky”.
- 4. Water Efficient Landscaping:** Drought tolerant and local species were selected to reduce the use of potable water for irrigation by 50%.
- 5. Water Use Reduction:** Low-flow plumbing fixtures and a highly efficient landscape irrigation system were selected to reduce water consumption by 30%.
- 6. Optimize Energy Performance:** The building will be 37% more energy efficient than stringent Title 24 code requirements through the utilization of efficient mechanical systems, increased insulation, double glazing with high-efficiency glass coatings, and naturally lit reading rooms with automatic light fixture dimming.
- 7. Power generation:** The rooftop photovoltaic panels generate electricity from the sun. A new integrated photovoltaic skylight demonstration project is included at the entry to increase the output and provide educational benefits. Lobby display will monitor energy production.
- 8. Fundamental Refrigerant Management:** The HVAC system is designed to operate without environment-harming CFC-based refrigerants.
- 9. Green Power:** At least 70% of the Library’s electrical requirements will be provided through contracts to encourage renewable energy production.
- 10. Construction Waste Management:** Over 75% of the construction debris was recycled.
- 11. Recycled Content:** At least 45% of the construction cost was spent on recycled materials.
- 12. Regional Materials:** Approximately 45% of the total construction materials used for the library were from sources within 500 miles of the project, thus reducing the greenhouse gases.
- 13. Rapidly Renewable Materials:** Rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo flooring and cabinetry were utilized for the construction.
- 14. Low Emitting Adhesives, Solvents, Paints and Carpet:** Materials specified for the Library meet the standards to minimize the emission of toxins into the atmosphere.

Green Housekeeping: **The Library is committed to the use of cleaning products that comply with Green Seal’s GS-37 Standard.**