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COMMUNITY FIRST BANK MILL QUARTER BRANCH

PUTTING COMMUNITY FIRST THROUGH SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN

When Central Oregon-based Community First Bank set out to build a new branch in Bend, they put a priority on saving energy and demonstrating their commitment to a sustainable community. So it's not surprising they also set out to be the first Central Oregon bank to receive the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold certification—the standard for sustainable building. Today, the Mill Quarter branch's energy performance is literally money in the bank. Thanks to energy efficiency upgrades made more affordable with Energy Trust of Oregon cash incentives and tax credits, the bank's energy usage is 25 to 30 percent less than a building built to Oregon energy code, translating to saving more than \$1,500 in energy costs every year. In addition, the bank offers a more comfortable environment for both customers and employees.

Designed for performance

The project team incorporated a wide range of techniques to conserve energy and maximize indoor environmental quality. Two solar electric installations supply 14 percent of the branch's annual electric usage—about 10,262 kilowatt hours. The mechanical system features Lennox high-efficiency gas furnaces,



Building sustainably is in perfect alignment with our core philosophy of giving back to the community. Our building treads lightly on the environment, it is a healthy space for our employees and customers and it blends seamlessly into the surrounding neighborhood. Building sustainably is one of the strongest ways businesses can support their local communities.

Casey Kaiser, branch manager, Community First Bank



GOALS

- Reduce energy consumption
- Lower operating costs
- Maintain neighborhood aesthetics
- Demonstrate the benefits of sustainable construction to the local, financial and business communities
- Attain LEED® Gold certification
- Minimize the building's carbon footprint

STRATEGIES

The project team recommended installing SunPower 205-watt and 210-watt solar electric systems, energy-efficient lighting and mechanical systems, sunshades, operable windows and solar tubes and light wells to provide natural interior light.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND SOLAR GENERATION

- Estimated savings of 14,279 kilowatt hours of electricity
- Estimated savings of 279 therms of natural gas
- Estimated solar power generation of 10,262 kilowatt hours of electricity per year

The building has a solar orientation and features solar tubes and light wells to maximize natural light.



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which are monitored online by Trane mechanical system management software. Energy-efficient lighting reduces energy use, while solar tubes in restrooms and interior light wells maximize natural lighting throughout the buildings. Sunshades on all south-facing windows reduce solar gain during warm months and can be rolled up during the winter to let in more light. Together, these features save more than 14,000 kWh of electricity each year.

Community First Bank also implemented a broad scope of environmentally sustainable features to meet the full range of LEED Gold certification requirements. Landscaping with native plants and an energy-efficient irrigation system reduces outside water use by 50 percent. Dual flush toilets and low-flow fixtures reduce indoor water use by 40 percent. The branch also purchases 100 percent of the building's electricity from Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program.

Penciling it out

Community First Bank covered a significant portion of the construction costs with Energy Trust cash incentives and tax credits from Oregon Department of Energy and the federal government. For the HVAC, lighting and insulation improvements, the company received a \$2,207 cash incentive from the Energy Trust New Buildings LEED-NC Track, while the solar installations earned \$11,756 in incentives from Energy Trust's Solar program. The project has captured attention from around the country, and was selected as a Green Building of America award-winning project. It was also featured in the Green Success Stories edition of *Real Estate & Construction Review-Northwest*.



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Learn how Energy Trust can help you cut energy costs through sustainable building design. Call 1.877.467.0930 or visit www.energytrust.org/newbuildings.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Community First Bank received financial incentives and tax credits, which helped make the project more affordable:

- \$11,756 incentive from Energy Trust for solar installation
- \$32,198 Business Energy Tax Credit from Oregon Department of Energy for solar installation
- \$2,207 incentive from Energy Trust New Buildings LEED-NC Track for energy-efficiency upgrades
- \$ 1,539 estimated annual energy cost savings from energy efficiency

PROJECT TEAM

- Community First Bank
- Steele Associates Architects, LLC
- SunWest Builders
- Sunlight Solar
- Energy Trust of Oregon

UTILITIES

- Pacific Power
- Cascade Natural Gas