



DMI Assists Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI to Achieve LEED Gold Certification

The Problem

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Rhode Island wanted to merge 1,100 employees from around the Rhode Island area into a new, eco-friendly, and healthy workplace. The 350,000 square foot building was designed to have 13 floors to provide ample office space as well as common areas to promote employee collaboration and wellbeing. The building needed to be energy efficient and provide state-of-the-art technologies.



The Solution

DMI was contacted to contribute design assistance and energy modeling services for the project in June 2007. Drawings were reviewed and an eQuest model was used to predict the building energy usage. Thirteen energy efficient designs were recommended and incorporated into the final design. The recommendations included efficient lighting design, lighting controls, improved window glazing, high performance HVAC systems, and premium efficiency motors. Our model predicted reduced facility energy costs by 19% over a code-compliant building design. Many of the energy efficient designs also qualified for incentives from the utility companies.

Project Background

In 2009, construction was completed on the new BCBS office building. The building was designed by Symmes, Maini, and McKee Associates (SMMA) of Cambridge, MA for the 500 Exchange Street location in the "Capitol Center" district of Providence, RI.

The Result

The implementation of all of the energy conservation measures recommended by DMI resulted in a payback period of only three years.

In October 2009, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to open the doors of the new BCBS office building to its employees. The employees were pleased with their centrally-located workplace, where most of the staff enjoys sweeping views of downtown Providence and 75% of all interior spaces are reached by sunlight. The BCBS of RI office building has since received a LEED Gold certification, becoming the first LEED-certified commercial building in Providence.

Articles

[SMMA-designed Blue Cross Blue Shield RI Headquarters Wins Design Excellence Award](#)

[Blue Cross goes green with new office tower](#)

Facility Overview

- Office
- 350,000 ft²
- 1,100 employees
- 13-story

Services Provided

- Design review
- Energy modeling with eQuest
- Energy conservation measures
- Equipment incentives

Results

- 3-year payback
- LEED Gold

To learn more about our services, please visit our website at www.dmiinc.com or contact us directly at info@dmiinc.com.