

Abstract

The surge of LEED(r) green building projects in the Houston area over the past year has been dramatic. This speaks well of the climate for adoption of sustainable technologies and the market forces that are rapidly making green buildings the norm rather than the exception for significant commercial and public projects in our community.

This presentation will provide an overview of the green building activity currently under way in the Houston area and will take a special look at how these projects are dealing with the land/water interface. Although counterintuitive, many of these projects treat storm water with same 'rapid and efficient disposal' design as is found in traditional development--not only ignoring the value of the water resource that's being disposed of, but also the opportunity for relatively low-cost LEED(r) points available outside the building envelope. This presentation will point out more sustainable techniques that are being adopted on some projects and some the drivers of change in this component of green building and sustainable development.