

Go Green – A Unique Building Philosophy

Green is more than our corporate color. It is our philosophy to do no harm. Not only is this one of the largest building projects devoted to cancer in recent years, this building will also be “clean” and “green.” Through air quality and sensitivities to chemicals and materials, we are not going to harm the people we are intending to heal.

The Avera Cancer Institute is registered for certification by the U.S. Green Building Council through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)® for Healthcare Rating System. There are only 20 LEED certified health care buildings in the United States.

If certified, the Avera Cancer Institute would be the only LEED-certified health care building in the state of South Dakota and the wider region. Not only is the design “green,” it is also “clean” for an optimal healing environment.

Features will include:

- Energy and water conservation. The ACI will be the first project in South Dakota to utilize Xcel Energy’s Energy Design Assistance® (EDA) program. With EDA, building projects can save an average of 28 to 30 percent over energy code with an average payback time of 14.5 months. It offers customized energy design consulting and computer energy modeling for the planned project, reimbursement of design team fees associated with the energy planning and modeling, and cash incentives for implementing energy saving recommendations.
 - Landscaping with native vegetation for minimal watering.
 - A rooftop garden to reduce the “heat island” effect caused by heat absorption by a rooftop and cut cooling costs.
 - Interior lighting plan to maximize sunlight and reduce electricity use.
 - Passive solar design with south-side glass to maximize solar heat in the winter, with specially-designed mullions to shade direct sunlight in the summer months.
 - Ice storage to conserve cooling costs (During the night, the cooler will create a large block of ice, when energy load levels are lower, and that ice will be used as a coolant factor during the daytime when load levels are higher. This will keep energy use at a consistent level, rather than peaks and valleys. When the ice melts, that water is reused.)
- Recycling, use of recycled building materials and reduction of construction waste.
- Purchasing of construction materials locally to minimize transportation.
- Indoor air quality measures, including filtering air and exposing air to UV light to kill airborne bacteria.
- Use of materials that are not harmful, i.e., adhesives, paints and sealants.
- Acoustic environment to maximize an indoor healing environment free of disruptive levels of noise.
- 7,500 square feet of indoor gardens that will aid in balancing indoor humidity and air quality.