



**CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL  
GURNEE MILLS, IL**

**33%** energy savings

**43%** water savings

**86%** of construction waste diverted from the landfill

**LEED® Facts**

**Chipotle Mexican Grill  
Gurnee Mills, IL**

LEED for Retail: New Construction Pilot  
Certification awarded May 18, 2009

<b>Platinum</b>	<b>53*</b>
Sustainable Sites	10/16
Water Efficiency	4/5
Energy & Atmosphere	13/17
Materials & Resources	7/13
Indoor Environmental Quality	14/15
Innovation & Design	5/5

\*Out of a possible 71 points

The information provided is based on that stated in the LEED® project certification submittals. USGBC and Chapters do not warrant or represent the accuracy of this information. Each building's actual performance is based on its unique design, construction, operation, and maintenance. Energy efficiency and sustainable results will vary.



## FOOD WITH INTEGRITY

# Chipotle's Vision for Sustainability

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Guided by the phrase “Food With Integrity,” the company’s pursuit of green design to mitigate the environmental impact of its restaurants has paid off; Chipotle’s Gurnee Mills location is the first stand-alone restaurant to achieve LEED Platinum certification.

## POWERING THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Chipotle seeks to apply standards for integrity not only to its food, but also to the design and operations of its restaurants. Participating in the LEED for Retail pilot program fit with those goals, and ensured that the restaurant industry would be represented under the new rating system. The Gurnee Mills project team’s initial objectives were two-fold: increase energy efficiency and install a source of onsite renewable energy. The restaurant’s close proximity to Lake Michigan and “the Windy City” made wind power an obvious choice, so Chipotle partnered with the city to install a 6-kilowatt wind turbine, which provides power for lighting the restaurant and contributes to its overall energy savings.

## STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

Chipotle was able to achieve LEED Platinum certification while incorporating practical cost neutral strategies. To improve the overall customer and employee experience Chipotle focused on health by maximizing indoor air quality. The company worked with suppliers to use low-emitting and non-toxic products and materials throughout its store. The decision to use these products did not incur any additional project costs.

The Gurnee Mills restaurant also took steps to improve water efficiency. The project expects indoor water savings of 43% and outdoor water savings of 100% by eliminating the use of potable water for landscaping, installing a 2,500-gallon cistern to collect rainwater, specifying native plantings, and investing in highly efficient interior water fixtures.

Minimizing electricity usage, especially in the lighting system, was an important component in realizing overall energy efficiency goals. The use of long-lasting, mercury-free LED lamps helped to dramatically reduce energy usage and lower cooling loads—an improvement that resulted in a 1-ton reduction in the capacity of the HVAC system. Moreover, an energy management system controls the lights, switching them on only when they are needed, further reducing energy usage and saving money. This system also monitors the wind turbine, water heater, hood and exhaust, and HVAC assembly.

Educating its staff and the public about green building is an ongoing priority for Chipotle. Employees attend formal crew trainings on sustainability and are trained to recycle glass, plastic, and cardboard. Customers can learn about Chipotle’s green building efforts in the restaurant and on the company’s Web site.

## ABOUT CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL

Chipotle fast-casual restaurants can be found in 33 states across the United States, with additional locations in Ontario, Canada. Founded in 1993, Chipotle is based in Denver and serves salads, tacos, burritos, and burrito bowls. The company places great emphasis on unprocessed, seasonal, family-farmed, nutritious, organic foods and sources its ingredients from suppliers who share its vision for bettering the environment.

“The wind turbine is a symbol of our intent to design and build our restaurants more efficiently and environmentally friendly.”

Steve Ells – founder, chairman & CEO of Chipotle



**Architect:** Wilkus Architects  
**Civil Engineer:** Landform  
**Owner:** Chipotle Mexican Grill  
**Contractor:** Galant Construction  
**MEP Engineer:** National Engineering  
**Landscape Architect:** Landform  
**LEED Consultant:** Green Building Services  
**Structural Engineer:** LS Engineers  
**Commissioning Agent:** Chipotle Mexican Grill  
**Project Size:** 2,216 square feet

Photography Courtesy of: Chipotle Mexican Grill

## ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council’s Web site at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org) to learn more about LEED and green building.



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