



LEED VOLUME PROGRAM: TESTIMONIAL

BEST BUY



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LEED Volume Program Testimonial

Best Buy adds Volume to its corporate responsibility platform

AS A COMPANY, Best Buy is a longtime practitioner of corporate responsibility. Its commitment embraces an extensive list of customers and their communities, investors and regulators, social activists, suppliers and employees.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY is a core component of Best Buy's responsibility initiative. Consequently, the company's 1,200-plus U.S.-based stores receive much attention, including how they are constructed and operated.

According to Danielle Tallman, Best Buy Prototype and Sustainability Manager, "We have long sought to reduce our carbon footprint by incorporating building components that lower energy and resource consumption." However, until the development of the LEED Volume Program, Best Buy did not include LEED certification in its strategy. "Given the sheer number of building projects and the severity of our deadlines, we simply couldn't pursue one-off LEED certifications as a course of business," she notes.

WITH THE CREATION OF THE VOLUME PROGRAM, Best Buy opted to give LEED certification another look. They liked what they saw. As Tallman recalls, "Suddenly, getting that certification made very good business sense." For one, Best Buy's prior commitment to sustainability supported its move to Volume certification. Tallman explains, "We were already meeting many LEED credit requirements. So the incremental cost – the cost of managing credit documentation and building certification – was less than 1%, an amount that's easily recouped." Nor did gaining Volume certification compromise project timing. "Once our Volume project prototype was in place, meeting deadlines was not an issue."

Tallman acknowledges that another key benefit of Volume certification is the comprehensive documentation that it requires. "My team plays a big role in helping Best Buy reduce its carbon footprint. And LEED Volume documentation, which is comprehensive and precise, has helped us quantify the impact of our building efforts on carbon reduction. The Volume Program creates accountability."

PLUS, WITH LEED CERTIFICATION, Best Buy gains the advantage of third party verification. Tallman says, "We like that stamp of approval. It sets us apart from other retailers and allows us to promote the very tangible difference that we're making. Now we want to certify as much as possible, we want to build everything to meet our Volume certification targets. We gain a lot from that consistency."

Tallman concludes, "Given Best Buy's commitment to sustainability, the Volume program becomes an easy sell. Its impact on upfront costs is negligible, and it supports all of our most essential sustainability initiatives: energy reduction, carbon reduction, lower building-lifecycle costs, and improved indoor environmental quality. What's not to like? At this point Volume certification is just part of how we're doing business."

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BEST BUY, visit:
www.bby.com/category/sustainability

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEED FOR VOLUME PROGRAM, visit:
www.usgbc.org/leedvolume



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Employees in front of Waxahachie store



Certification plaque at Waxahachie

ABOUT THE LEED VOLUME PROGRAM

The LEED Volume Program is for organizations planning to certify a large number of new-construction projects or existing buildings. It works by establishing verifiable guidelines that, without compromising LEED's rigorous benchmarks standards, streamline the certification process.



www.usgbc.org