



## Executive Insight

"The elegance of green building is the elegance of all good engineering - achieving your goals at a reasonable cost. LEED gives us the tools to address costs that are hard to quantify and easy to ignore such as total energy cost, indoor air quality, and landfills. I have been a LEED AP since 2004, and I'm thrilled at how we've incorporated these discussions into every project."

- David Kramer, Director of Preconstruction Services



PEAK Program

## Blach Sustainable Initiatives

**Earth Day** - In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 2014 at 11:00 AM, Blach employees will take action by volunteering some time to clean out their desk, cubicle, office, construction trailer and trucks by powering off desktop gadgets, clearing up unwanted items and recycling outdated construction documents.

**Pajaro USGBC PEAK Program** - PEAK is an environmental education program designed to empower students with the knowledge to manage energy use in their homes, schools and communities. Through hands-on learning, students are inspired to take action to create a more sustainable world. On December 6, 2013, Steve Murphy and Andrea Tucker went to a science event at Ohlone Elementary School and presented on carbon footprints and greenhouse gases (see photo to the left).

**LED Light Replacement** - In June of 2013, Blach switched out 70 MR16 Halogen bulbs to LEDs and received a rebate check from Silicon Valley Power for \$1,362.00.



## Green Spotlight - Moore Foundation

In 2009, Blach transformed a nondescript, 62,000 s.f. office building into the new, dynamic headquarters of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The project attained LEED Platinum for commercial interiors and was also honored as "2009 Green Project of the Year" by the San Jose-Silicon Valley Business Journal. The project team achieved a 96.4% construction waste diversion level and incorporated numerous sustainable aspects including reclaimed and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood accents throughout the building, as well as recycled and rapidly renewable materials such as bamboo, kirei board, cork flooring and cotton insulation.

In 2013, Blach completed a renovation of the building's exterior landscaping, which included a water harvesting cistern system and a trellis built from reclaimed redwood beams to create an outdoor community gathering area.



## Accounting Spotlight

Who knew Accounting could be so frugal?

Accounting has taken several steps in the past 5+ years to be more sustainable. These include:

- Invoice router allows the team to route invoices for signature and store them electronically
- Employees now submit reimbursement requests via email\*
- Direct deposits are emailed
- All paperwork gets scanned and recycled
- Textura means subcontractor invoices are all submitted and paid electronically
- Weekly project "Cost to Date" reports are generated and emailed by My Assistant
- No need for paper filing saves space

\* Please remember to submit reimbursement requests via email to [accounts.payable@blach.com](mailto:accounts.payable@blach.com)

## Green Building Trends for 2014

- Green building in North America will continue with strong growth in 2014
- Look for USGBC/LEED to attract competition with new rating systems surfacing such as Green Globes
- Net-zero buildings will become more commonplace
- Green building to begin focusing on modernizations rather than new building projects
- Cloud computing to work its way into smart buildings systems
- Green Building Performance Disclosure is increasingly becoming law in many states/municipalities
- Building product "red lists" will become more prevalent (as well as more contentious)
- Solar power popularity will grow with new 3rd party financing opportunities becoming available
- Water harvesting & reuse systems will become necessary with the water shortages in parts of the country

## Company Green News

New LEED GAs:  
Dave Brehmer

Currently, 11 employees are taking advantage of Blach's public transportation reimbursement program. If you are interested, please contact Tierney Siler.

40% of all projects pursuing LEED are located outside of the US

In Spring of 2014, BEST will be showing Green Build's "It's Zero or Nothing: Solutions for a Post-Carbon Economy" video at a Lunch & Learn

The plastic used in 1 toner cartridge contains about a half quart of oil.

## Habitat for Humanity

One weekend in April of May, BEST will be coordinating a Habitat for Humanity day. More information to come. All participation is welcome!



The City of San José no longer collects plastic bags for recycling because they interfere with recycling machinery, costing approx. \$1 million per year.

BEST is recruiting! If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Tina Martinez Plamenco

A high-quality reusable bag has the potential to replace over 600 single-use plastic bags over its lifetime, significantly reducing plastic bag litter. Paper bags are also problematic, taking 14 million trees each year in the US to produce a year's supply.

## Title 24

Changes to the mandatory Title 24 lighting requirements take effect in 2014. The changes improve the energy efficiency of homes by 25 percent and make nonresidential buildings 30 percent more efficient than the previous 2008 standards.

With energy efficiency financing having the potential to soar from \$20 to \$150 billion annually, over one million jobs could be created.

LEED projects are responsible for diverting over 80 million tons of waste from landfills, which is expected to grow to 540 million tons of waste diversion by 2030.

Buildings are one of the heaviest consumers of natural resources and account for a significant portion of the greenhouse gas emissions that affect climate change. In the U.S., buildings account for 38% of all CO2 emissions and 73% of electricity consumption.

More than 2.7 billion square feet of building space are LEED-certified (as of October 1, 2013).