

SfL+a Architects – a Certified Green Business!



SfL+a Architects, a well-known and respected architectural and design firm in North Carolina now has another certification to add to their long list of achievements. On September 2, 2008 their Fayetteville office became a Sustainable Sandhills Certified Green Business.

The Green Business Program allows each business to define their own path to certification, and the SfL+a path included many of the measures that are typical in a professional office environment. Some of these measures include: installing compact fluorescent lights, posting and tracking their energy and water usage, promoting energy and water conservation by placing signs throughout the office, and purchasing recycled-content office supplies. They also eliminated all disposable kitchenware, which made a dent in their break room waste generation.

The SfL+a staff expanded their recycling practices, adding plastic, glass, aluminum, newspapers, magazines and cardboard to the office paper waste stream they were recycling prior to the program.

For SfL+a, becoming a Certified Green Business and working with other organizations with a similar interest in protecting the environment was a natural progression; they have been designing with the environment in mind since the company was founded in 1982. In fact their corporate offices in Fayetteville are in a rehabilitated 1936 armory in the Historic Downtown District – the ultimate urban recycling project!



According to a recent article in the Triangle Businesses Journal, SfL+a are positioning themselves as the architect of choice for energy efficient public school buildings in the Carolinas. Having worked with more than 30 school districts in North Carolina and a smaller number of customers in South Carolina, SfL+a has successfully advocated for green design features in many of those school projects. SfL+a's Robbie Ferris recognizes that energy use is one of the most important issues facing our country today and the firm is positioned to serve schools with that concern in mind. "That's what we can be the best in the world at," says Ferris. "It's exciting to think we are spot on with the biggest need in our industry."



In line with their commitment to build more energy and water efficient schools, two of SfL+a Architect's six principal architects, Ferris and Thomas Hughes, are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professionals (LEED AP). This accreditation distinguishes building professionals who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building practices, principles and the LEED Rating System. Since the US Green Building Council launched the LEED certification program in 2001, more than 75,000 people have earned the LEED AP certification.

James Dean led the SfL+a Green Business certification effort in the Fayetteville office. When asked if he would recommend the Green Business Program to other area businesses, his response was very positive. “The more people involved, the more effective the program will be. It’s not just our community; it’s every community, everywhere.”

While everyone at SfL+a participated in the greening of their office operations, Dean acknowledged that when it came down to implementing each and every measure – some staff members needed a “little extra nudge.” Luckily, it seems that no one had to be shoved! Even in an office as progressive as SfL+a, changing behavior isn’t effortless. “Committing to and becoming certified was relatively easy, but the follow-through every day of the week is where the program really pays off. Becoming certified is just another way to communicate to our customers how serious we are about energy, water and the environment.”



To learn more about SfL+a Architects, contact Eric Lindstrom at 910-484-4989, or check their [website](#).

If your business or organization is interested in learning more about the Sustainable Sandhills Green Business Program, please contact one of our Green Business Program Coordinators - [Jodi Hajosy](#) or [Heidi Johnson](#) at 910-484-9098.



Sustainable Sandhills – Green Business Program

Gaining commitment from local businesses to become more sustainable.

Flexible checklists customized for different business sectors. Recognition in local media and by local government and Chamber of Commerce award programs. Networking with business and community leaders. Position your business for future profitability and success!

[Link to SS Green Business Program web page](#)