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Building methods earn company state, national recognition

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An award-winning national company with a local office has a focus on being green.

The Boldt Co., a business that does construction as well as consulting, is the largest construction services organization in the state.

And when the construction begins, so does the eco-consciousness.

When working on a project, the company analyzes all aspects of its projects, beginning with the site, to determine eco-friendly ways to build. These also include water usage on the site, efficient mechanical and electrical aspects, using solar power and using materials that are either sustainable or recyclable.

"We are using the resources we use in the best and most efficient way possible," said Jim Rossemeissl, senior executive vice president of the company. "First and foremost, the most important reason is we have a limited resource base on this planet."

Rossemeissl added the company puts weight on the dimension that pertains to comfort, including sustainable products and making the most of natural daylight.

It is about considering the use of the most efficient systems available in the marketplace, with high output and low energy usage, he said.

The Boldt Co. has been involved in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED and sustainable design and construction for 10 years. LEED is a third-party certification program that involves the U.S. Green Building Council.

The company has won both national and state awards for its green building practices. Its project near Baraboo, the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, was awarded more points than any project in the United States and was LEED platinum, Rossemeissl said.

Rossemeissl also cited economic considerations that are in play when an eco-friendly building model is used.

"If you consider the payback for designing and building a LEED certified building, it happens very quickly," he said. "The cost to build responsibly is minimal."

Rossemeissl said a building's cost during 30 years includes 2 percent for the initial capital and about 6 percent for operations and maintenance, where there is room for cost savings. The other 92 percent involve employee-related costs.

And this commitment to eco-conscious construction is not a fleeting trend.

"This will be a lasting consideration for the Boldt Co., as we believe it should be for every person on this planet," Rossmeyssl said. "We have made a commitment to conservation, sustainability and the best and most responsible use of resources."
