

Pocono Environmental Education Center

Location: Dingmans Ferry, PA Architect: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Overview

The Pocono Environmental Education and Visitor Center is designed to reinforce the organization's mission of environmental stewardship and education.

The building is a flexible, multipurpose gathering space for dining, meetings, lectures, and other environmental learning activities. The building is designed to serve as a teaching tool for environmental education. Arriving at the site, visitors pass through a forest, cross a wetland, enter the building through an opening in the dark north wall, and cross through a bar of service spaces into the bright, daylight main room. The south-facing shed is designed to take full advantage of the warmth of the sun, cool mountain breezes, abundant natural light, and views of the forest.

SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

- Percent of total building area that is daylight: **62**
- Percent of building that can be ventilated or cooled with operable windows: **63**
- Precipitation managed on site: **35**
- EPA Energy Reduction:
- Percent total energy savings: **43**
- Lighting Load after Controls (W/sf): **1.75**

Jury Comments:

"This project grows from the site. This is 'how to mainstream Sam Mockbee.' Great scale and materials." –**Marvin Malecha**

"This had good metrics, and it was also very whimsical—it makes it cool to use tires in this way." –**Jason McLennan**

"This is a dramatic transformation of a site by using the materials removed from its cleanup, to create the exterior envelope, which is exciting to see. The use of the recycled tires and the texture they produce are inventive." –**Susan Rodriguez**

"This building is much more than its simple shed design might initially suggest. The wall of recycled tires is beautiful, textural, and compelling as an educational statement, and is reflective of the entire building's mission to serve as a tool for environmental education." –**Gail Brager**



Sustainable Design Intent & Innovation

Through careful siting, materials selection, analysis, and design of building systems, the structure outwardly expresses the principles of green design. Because it serves as a teaching tool, the building makes many of its green building strategies apparent to visitors.

The north wall at the main entrance to the building is clad in shingles cut from reclaimed tires gathered from local sources where they had been discarded. Operable windows provide natural ventilation to the main activity space, encouraging occupants to think about their own comfort and the environmental impacts of heating and cooling. South-facing windows provide passive solar gain in the winter, lowering heating costs. Overall, the building was designed to be resource and energy efficient, both from a first-cost standpoint and from an operational one due to the tight budgetary constraints of this small environmental center.

Primary Design Team Members

Allen Kachel, AIA, LEED AP
Peter Bohlin, FAIA
Wayne Stitt, AIA
Michael Weeks, P.E.
Russ Albert, P.E.
David Strunk, P.E.
Manny Pons, P.E.
John Frondorf
Jim Boucher
Thomas Solon
Jim Rienhardt

Full project profile:

www.aiatopten.org/hpb/overview.cfm?ProjectID=1016

Allen Kachel, AIA, LEED AP
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Architect (Project manager)
8 West Market Street, Suite 1200
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
570-825-8756
www.bcj.com