

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

August 2002

## Hayward Plant Applies for LEED Certification by Libby Maurer

Call it a first for the component manufacturing industry. In May, Hayward Building Systems opened a components plant in Santa Maria, CA, which stands out in the component manufacturing industry as a model in energy efficiency. Powered by solar energy, the Hayward plant includes several unique features that have allowed the plant to apply for certification according to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) standards.



Ed Knight, newly named General Manager for Hayward's component manufacturing operations, commented that the initial concept of the building was to achieve complete sustainability. By designing a self-sufficient facility, Hayward was able to preserve much of the natural environment on the truss plant site and apply for a nationally recognized award for environmental stewardship.

Knight called the plant a "zero power facility," meaning it operates on solar power by using an active solar system and receptors to convert sunlight into electricity. "The plant is directly connected to the local electricity grid and actually feeds surplus power back to the community," Knight explained. In addition, skylights in the manufacturing area allow natural light into the facility and also have the capability to filter it out when necessary.

Knight confirmed that the concept for this solar powered component manufacturing facility had little to do with the recent California energy crisis. "From the foundation on up, we took the environment into consideration when designing this sustainable building model," Knight said.

The building site chosen by Hayward reinforces the concept of energy efficiency and environmental conservation. "By choosing to convert an abandoned manufacturing site, we were able to decrease the overall footprint we left in the ground," Knight said. In addition, Hayward worked closely with local construction officials to create a foundation that contained over 50 percent fly-ash, a by-product of coal combustion that usually makes up no more than 20 to 30 percent of the content of a concrete foundation.

The LEED certification will present Hayward with a step in the right direction to establish an innovative marketing scheme. Among the many side benefits that this environmental award introduces is free local publicity, the support of the community, and word of mouth advertising.

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