

DESERT
Morning News

Curtis Clark, regional chair, U.S. Green Building Council, presents Daybreak's silver certification plaque in the Community Center.



Going for the green

Unique green features at Daybreak Elementary School and Community Center

- Saves 50% of outdoor water by using drought tolerant landscaping.
- Saves 22% of indoor water by using efficient water fixtures.
- Uses florescent lights to decrease energy usage.
- Uses 25 cents less energy per square foot than the average Jordan District School.
- During construction, 57% of construction waste was sorted and recycled.
- 120 pipes go 300 feet in the earth to capture Earth's energy creating ground source heating.



HOW COOL would it be if you could harness the energy of the Earth to heat and cool a building? It would help the environment and would be cheaper than paying for the electricity to perform the same task. Well, Daybreak Elementary School and Community Center, which are combined, does just that! A liquid pumps through pipes that run 300 feet below the earth, where it is a constant 55 degrees, to help warm or cool the building. This ground-source heating system is just one example of green building or environmental building. Green building is when you build with energy conservation and the environment in mind. The ground-source heating system, along with other features, including more windows to let direct sunlight in, florescent lighting and an outdoor secondary water system, helped Daybreak Elementary School and Community Center earn a national green building award called LEED®. LEED® stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Kennecott Land applied for the certification, and it was awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, which recognizes green building efforts. LEED® certification is a lot like the Olympics. For the Olympics, athletes train hard and compete for gold, silver and bronze medals. To achieve LEED® status, buildings are judged and receive points on how well they do in certain areas. Like the Olympics, there are different levels:

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platinum, gold, silver and certified, and Daybreak got silver! This year, Daybreak Elementary and Community Center became the sixth building and the first public school in Utah to become LEED® certified. Across the United States, there are 553 buildings that are LEED® certified, which is pretty impressive if you think that there are hundreds of thousands of buildings in America. Because of the design, Daybreak Elementary School and Community Center saves 25 cents in utility bills for every square foot, compared to the average school building in Jordan School District. "Kennecott Land is committed to building in an environmentally sustainable manner. We are pleased to be recognized for preserving resources and reducing energy costs," said Peter McMahon, President, Kennecott Land.

LEED® is not the only green certification. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges people to build their houses Energy Star® rated. This means that houses are built 15-20 percent more energy efficient than a standard home built to state code. Every home in Daybreak is Energy Star® rated, and when you think that Daybreak will have almost 14,000 homes, that is a lot of saved energy.

Why should we build green? It is important to build buildings energy efficient, because when you do, not only does it save on energy bills, but the building does not release as many gases into the air that hurt our environment. This is a great way to prepare for our future.

LEED® buildings and Energy Star® houses do their part in reducing their environmental impact. You can do your part, too and go for the green. By turning off lights and equipment you can save a lot of energy and help our environment.

DOUGLAS BARNES



Duane Devey, energy supervisor, Jordan School District, shows the pipes of the ground-source heating system.

Daybreak Elementary School and Community Center's ground-source heating system helps the building be energy efficient.

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