

Press Release

Rio Tinto Distribution Center Achieves LEED Gold Certification

Rio Tinto Distribution Center is the fifth LEED certified building for Rio Tinto in the Salt Lake Valley

Sept 15, 2009

South Jordan, Utah – Rio Tinto has achieved another milestone in sustainable development by being awarded LEED® Gold Certification by the U.S Green Building Council (USGBC) for the Rio Tinto Distribution Center in South Jordan, Utah. Rio Tinto’s distribution center was sited and constructed to reduce environmental impacts, reduce the company’s carbon footprint and create working efficiencies. The Rio Tinto Distribution Center is the fifth building in the Salt Lake Valley to achieve LEED certification under Rio Tinto ownership by subsidiaries Kennecott Utah Copper and Kennecott Land.

“Being awarded LEED gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council is an accomplishment that we are very proud of,” said Clayton Walker, Vice President, projects and value generation, Kennecott Utah Copper. “The distribution center makes a strong statement about our commitment to sustainable development and the responsible approach that we, along with our contractors, took to make this a first-class project.”

The state-of-the-art Rio Tinto Distribution Center consolidates and replaces 19 previously used storage facilities under one five-acre roof. The consolidation and location of the distribution center creates efficiencies while reducing the need for travel by being closer to delivery sites within Rio Tinto’s Utah operations. The distribution center will save approximately 20 miles and four delivery runs per day, contributing to improved safety and a reduction in the company’s carbon footprint.

Additional facts about the Rio Tinto Distribution Center:

- The distribution center occupies a 35-acre site within Kennecott Land's Daybreak Commerce Park.
- The distribution center includes 225,000 square feet of warehouse space, 15,600 square feet of office and meeting space, and encompasses 9 million cubic feet of volume.
- The distribution center has a state-of-the-art computer controlled storage and retrieval system that reduced the originally programmed square footage by nearly 30 percent.
- The landscaping emphasizes climate appropriate vegetation to minimize water use. Only non-culinary water is used for site irrigation.
- The roof minimizes the effects of solar heat gain because it is made from a highly reflective white roofing material called Thermoplastic Olefin that creates a cool roof.
- The facility is made up of nearly 34 percent recycled material, and nearly 92.6 percent of all construction waste was diverted to appropriate recycling facilities.
- The building consists of 21.6 percent materials extracted, processed and manufactured within a 500-mile radius of the site, which supported local and regional economies while reducing transportation costs and environmental impacts.
- The building is under a two-year agreement to purchase green power that will account for 10 percent of total electrical usage.

LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED is USGBC's primary rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and high-performing buildings. LEED Certification was achieved through environmentally-friendly design and building standards.

Big - D Construction served as the general contractor for the building. Hoj Engineering developed and installed the warehouse system, and GSBS Architects served as the architectural firm for the project.

The Rio Tinto Distribution Center is the fifth facility in the Salt Lake Valley under Rio Tinto ownership to achieve LEED certification in the last three years, which includes the Rio Tinto Regional Center in Daybreak that achieved Platinum certification.

Media Note: Tours of the Rio Tinto Distribution Center are available by appointment for members of the media.

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the United Kingdom, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminum, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and Southern Africa.

www.riotinto.com

About Kennecott Utah Copper

As the second largest copper producer in the United States, Kennecott Utah Copper provides about 13 percent of the U.S.'s copper needs. Kennecott's Bingham Canyon Mine is the largest man-made excavation in the world. It is one of the top producing copper mines in the world with production at more than 18.1 million tons. Every year, Kennecott produces approximately 300,000 tons of copper, along with 500,000 ounces of gold, 4 million ounces of silver, about 30 million pounds of molybdenum, and about 1 million tons of sulfuric acid, a by-product of the smelting process. Rio Tinto purchased Kennecott Utah Copper in 1989 and has invested about \$2 billion in the modernization of KUC's operations. KUC has also spent more than \$350 million on the cleanup of historic mining waste and \$100 million on groundwater cleanup. KUC employs 1,800 people and hundreds of contractors. www.kennecott.com

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since UGSBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 17,000 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 78 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

About LEED®

The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a feature-oriented rating system that awards buildings points for satisfying specified green building criteria. The six major environmental categories of review include: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design. Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of LEED green building certification are awarded based on the total number of points earned within each LEED category. LEED can be applied to all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell developments, existing buildings, homes, neighborhood developments, schools and retail facilities.