LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Envrionmental Design, is a world wide green building rating system administered through the United States Green Building Council—a non-profit organization that promotes sustainability in buildings design, construction, and operation. LEED has been used at a few City of Charlotte facilities and the Building Services Division of E&PM has worked with CMPD to provide high quality LEED police division facilities. CMPD Providence Division is one sustainable facility which has earned a LEED silver certification level.

Until recently, LEED has awarded certifications by providing the building with traditional plaque. This plaque is static, providing no means for occupants to see how their behavior influences the performance of their facility. Occupants could override systems, leave doors open allowing dust to enter the building, leave lights on in unoccupied rooms, and other measures which result in decreased environmetal performance and increased utility costs. As a result of driving market forces, LEED has developed a new exciting tool to address and influence occupant behavior. A LEED Dynamic Plaque empowers building occupants and facility managers by providing instant access to utility and sustainability data for their facility. Additionally, the plaque streamlines the recertification of the existing LEED facility by reducing the paperwork cost and eliminating the need to hire a third party.

In April 2016, the LEED Dynamic plaque was installed in the Providence Police Division lobby. The plaque measures performance in five categories: Energy, Water, Waste, Transportation, and Human Experience. These points are based on sustainability criteria the building achieved during design & construction. Also the points are awarded according to how the facility compares with other facilities in the world and region with dynamic plaques. The result? CMPD Providence Division’s sustainability performance is on par with other buildings around the world for most categories, and outperforms nearly all sustainable facilities in the region. LEED buildings are at least 20% more efficient compared to how it would have been built by base code, which is also good for the bottom line of the tax payer.

But lets not forget the most important reason why the facility is performing so well—people care. When people care about something, when they become involved in a sustainabiltiy cause, when people feel empowered to make a difference, when they are given transparent data, the sky is the limit. CMPD Providence Division as a high performing green building would have not been possible without the strong support and collaboration between E&PM and CMPD.

As a result of this success, CMPD Steele Creek Division and CMPD Westover Division could receive dynamic plaques too. This could help CMPD staff and E&PM’s Energy Team to evaluate the performance of the three divisions, exchange best practices for these current facilities, and use this data to design even higher performing sustainable facilities for future CMPD divisions.

You can view the data from your smart phone. Download the app on your i-phone, search “LEED Dynamic Plaque” on the app store and type in project 1000005395

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