



Executive Summary

Paseo Verde

Category B: Building/Technology Systems

Paseo Verde is a \$48 million, mixed-use, residential development adjacent to Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's Temple University station in North Philadelphia. Completed in 2013, the building consists of 120 rental units with community amenities and almost 30,000 square feet of ground-floor retail. Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha, a Latino community development organization, envisioned the project as a way to provide affordable, community-based housing with access to mass transit, while showcasing sustainable practices in design. A multi-disciplinary process of community outreach and collaboration resulted in a design that addresses the many needs and challenges set forth by the development's owners. The client's goal was to achieve the "highest level" of sustainability possible under the tight budget.

Paseo Verde was the first project nationwide to receive LEED® Platinum in the category of LEED® for Neighborhood Design. To achieve this standard, the design team worked collaboratively to incorporate numerous sustainability strategies, including a well-insulated building envelope, individually controlled gas-fired heating and cooling units in each apartment, a 40 kW photovoltaic array on the roof, and natural lighting. The use of green roofs, blue roofs (the first implemented in Philadelphia), infiltration basins, and porous paving are just some of the stormwater management techniques that help reduce drainage into the combined sewers. By promoting the concept of walkability, access to open space, sustainable building infrastructure and providing quick access to public transportation, Paseo Verde promotes the ideals of a healthy lifestyle and strong urban sustainable communities.