

green on the inside



As a conservation organization, it's just as important for us to be green on the inside as on the outside. Working in a green building is a way for Trustees staff to lead by example and to be inspired by the natural beauty and quality of light.



Sure, this office features the typical furnishings: desks, shelves, carpet. But take a closer look. Those desktops are made from sunflower seeds and soy-based resins; an agricultural by-product that would otherwise go to waste.



Have you ever used paint or glue inside and noticed how strong it smells? Those fumes, though they eventually fade away, are affecting the air quality and your health. We want our staff members to work in the healthiest environment possible, so in our construction we used sealants, paints, and adhesives that emit the lowest levels of toxic chemicals. An added benefit is a reduction in CFCs and other pollutants that are harming the ozone layer.

did you know?

In some cases, indoor air pollution is worse than outdoor pollution. Since experts estimate that we spend 90 percent of our time indoors, that's something to think about! One simple step you can take to improve indoor air quality at home is placing lots of plants around your house—15 to 18 in an 1,800-square-foot home will help filter the air. Of course, you should also make sure your home is properly ventilated and have your heating and air conditioning systems serviced. Unclean filters are a primary source of indoor air pollutants.

And that's not the only renewable material you'll see here. We chose two others for the flooring: bamboo (here in the office area) and cork (in the conference rooms). One of the fastest-growing plants on the planet, bamboo regenerates in three to five years after harvesting, as opposed to the decades some hardwood forests need. A hard, moisture-resistant material, bamboo is being used increasingly by environmentally-minded builders and homeowners.

Cork comes from the bark of the cork oak tree, which grows mainly in the Mediterranean. It has been used as flooring for more than a century, notably by Frank Lloyd Wright; the tiles are often made from the waste material left from producing corks for wine bottles.

The carpets are post-industrial recycled fibers, and the wall fabric that enhances our acoustics is recycled as well.



DESKTOP



BAMBOO



CORK



CARPET



FABRIC

Before anyone ever worked here, we left the building open for two weeks so it could air out. Now we make sure that the air stays fresh. Carbon-dioxide monitors let occupants know when they need to open a window or two. An energy recovery ventilator in the basement regularly exchanges the building's "used" air for fresh air from outside, heating or cooling it as it comes in. The "chimney effect" created by our open floor plan lets air circulate effectively. And above all else, our architects made sure that windows and daylight play an important part in the Doyle Conservation Center.

Additionally, this isn't like those offices you see with no windows at all—in fact, 90 percent of the building is naturally lit. And every office has a beautiful view!



energy and atmosphere



materials and resources



sustainable sites



indoor air quality



water efficiency