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City Officials, Dow, Kirksey Architecture, and the USGBC Kick-off Dow's Earth Day Celebration with Diamond Center LEED Gold Plaque Ceremony and Green Building Tour

LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS — City Manager Bill Yenne and U.S. Green Building Council Vice President Gretchen Sweeney joined Kirksey Architecture and Dow on Thursday, April 20th for the unveiling of the Dow Diamond Center's LEED Gold certification plaque ceremony, complete with a building tour to showcase the green features of the new building.

Located at the new Dow Texas Innovation Center's Diamond Center at 270 Abner Jackson Parkway, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566, the LEED Gold plaque ceremony kicked off Dow's Earth Day celebration. The Diamond Center is the amenities building on Dow's new campus and is comprised of welcome space, a dining facility, fitness center, conference center, clinic, and more. The building was designed with a focus on energy efficiency and sustainability. Both the design and construction teams were very careful to protect the natural resources found on the site, which create a nature-park like setting.

Speakers in attendance included:

- Earl Shipp, Vice President of Dow U.S. Gulf Coast Operations
- Bill Yenne, City Manager, City of Lake Jackson
- Gretchen Sweeney, Vice President, U.S. Green Building Council
- Brian Richard, Executive Vice President, Kirksey Architecture

"The strong partnership among all of the stakeholders in this project reinforced the commitment to green building practices from early design meetings through the end of construction. On behalf of the project team, we are so proud to have achieved this distinction." – Skye Smith, Senior Project Manager, Kirksey Architecture.

The building, designed by Kirksey Architecture and developed by CORE Real Estate is 20% more energy efficient than a typical code-compliant building and has 38% more water savings. The general contractor, D.E. Harvey Builders, diverted 78% of their construction waste. Here is an overview of why these LEED metrics matter:

Energy Savings

- The Dow Diamond Center has an annual energy use savings of 20%
 - o This equates to:
 - 25,133 gallons of gasoline saved every year
 - 47 passenger vehicles taken off the road every year
 - 33 homes powered with electricity all year
 - 517 barrels of oil consumed

Water Savings

- The Diamond Center has an annual water savings of 38%
 - o This equates to:
 - 748,231 bottles of water saved every year!
 - 3,300 loads of laundry avoided every year
 - 5,743 showers (8-min) avoided every year

Construction Waste Diversion

- The Diamond Center diverted 78% of their construction waste from the landfill during the construction process
 - o Waste that is recycled instead of being sent to the landfill ALSO contributes to the reduction in CO2 emissions!
 - o This diversion amount equates to:
 - 409 tons of waste *recycled* instead of put into a landfill, OR 58.5 garbage trucks of trash diverted from the landfill
 - 1,300 metric tons of CO2 emissions prevented from entering the atmosphere
 - OR 146,281 gallons of gasoline that were not burned

The two new research and development buildings on the campus are also seeking LEED certification.

--- photos below ---



PHOTO CAPTION: The Dow Diamond Center receives a LEED Gold Plaque for its sustainable features, designed by Kirksey Architecture.

Pictured above (left to right):

Brian Richard (Kirksey), Ric Pipkin (CORE Real Estate), Jonathan Kraatz (USGBC), Gretchen Sweeney (USGBC), Bill Yenne (COLJ), and Earl Shipp (Dow).

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PHOTO CAPTION: The Dow Diamond Center welcomes employees and visitors alike. The two-story lobby is the activity center for the building, connecting the various building programs of conference facilities, customer interface, dining and town hall spaces on the first level to the health and wellness programs on the second level.



PHOTO CAPTION: The Diamond Center includes a Customer Interface Center that houses product displays, interactive graphics and information, and plug-and-play presentation areas.

DOW DIAMOND CENTER GREEN BUILDING FACTS:

- **A Sustainable Site** - The project is located in Lake Jackson, sited to be no further than 1/4 mile away from local public transportation. A bus stop is being placed at the site entrance within 1/4 mile distance of the building. This favorable location contributes to thousands of vehicle miles avoided for Dow Diamond Center users annually, and a significant corresponding reduction in carbon emissions. There is 224,060 sf of vegetated open area adjacent to the building.
- **Water Efficiency** - Low-flow plumbing fixtures are used throughout the project, including low-flow faucets, urinals, toilets, and showers. Overall, the building is estimated to reduce indoor potable water use by 38% compared to a conventional building. Landscaping for the project uses an efficient irrigation system to reduce potable water used for irrigation by more than 50%.
- **Energy & Atmosphere** - The building is designed to be 20% more energy efficient than a code-compliant building. It uses 15% less interior lighting energy, 49% less exterior lighting energy, 37% less cooling and 16% less fan energy. HVAC energy savings are achieved by optimizing window areas, right sizing the system, extensive zoning, use of Demand Control Ventilation and Energy Recovery. All HVAC and fire-suppression systems in the project operate without CFC refrigerants, preventing the release of ozone-depleting substances. Independent commissioning review helped ensure that installation and operation of systems met design intent and Dow requirements.
- **Materials & Resources** - More than 78% of the debris generated during construction for the project was recycled. An on-site recycling program also encourages employees and visitors to collect paper, glass, cardboard, plastics and metals. Steel, insulation and millwork with as much as 29% recycled content have been incorporated in the project, reducing the impacts associated with the extraction and processing of virgin materials. 22% of the building materials were extracted, harvested and manufactured within a 500 mile radius.
- **Indoor Environmental Air Quality** - Construction followed stringent guidelines to minimize the introduction of harmful air contaminants into the space. Low-emitting paints, adhesives, sealants, and flooring were used to ensure healthy indoor air quality for occupants. To enhance occupant control, individual work stations and collaborative spaces are equipped with multiple lighting controls. Spaces and windows were designed to provide daylight to 78% and Outside Views to 92% of Regularly Occupied Spaces.
- **Innovation in Design** - A green building education program is in place, including an interactive display in the main lobby that highlights the sustainable aspects of the project. In addition, the project utilizes environmentally friendly housekeeping products and low impact insect control measures.

About Kirksey Architecture

Kirksey is a Houston-based, sustainable architecture and interior design firm with more than 29 million sf of LEED® projects in their portfolio. Team-based in structure, Kirksey serves Commercial, Collegiate, Community, pK-12, Government, Healthcare, Hospitality, Science & Technology, and Multi-Family Residential markets.