

U.S. Bank building achieves LEED gold

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The tallest office building in Idaho is now officially a green building.

The U.S. Bank [Plaza](#), a 20-story Class-A office tower in downtown Boise, recently earned a Gold rating from the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

LEED awards green building certification to commercial buildings in five categories, including new construction, core and shell, schools, existing buildings and commercial interiors. The U.S. Bank building is the third building in Idaho to earn the existing building certification.

Since 2001, [Unico Properties](#), the Seattle-based owner of the building, has invested close to \$600,000 in energy-efficiency upgrades and in implementing sustainable practices.

The result was a 13 percent reduction in energy usage for the 256,000-square-foot building, according to an [Energy Star](#) estimate.

“U.S. Bank Plaza is an example of a good, solid existing building that just needed ‘tuning up’,” Liz Fitzgerald, Unico’s Property Manager at U.S. Bank Plaza, said in a press release. “We saw the potential to be more efficient and save resources, and our hope is that managers of existing multi-tenant office buildings around the country will be inspired to follow suit.”

Significant changes in the building include replacing the building’s boiler with two high-efficiency condensing boilers, revising the controls for less after-hours use, installing low-flow bathroom fixtures, switching to non-potable ground water for irrigation, using sustainable building products in all tenant improvement construction, recycling construction waste and implementing a high performance cleaning program.