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## **Wells Fargo Plaza earns LEED-EB silver certification**

Unico Properties LLC's Wells Fargo Plaza in Tacoma, has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Wells Fargo Plaza, which serves as the anchor of Tacoma's financial district, is the first property in Tacoma to achieve LEED-EB certification. The 308,000-square-foot, Class-A office building is on Pacific Avenue between 12th and 13th streets.

Since the retrofitting process began in 2009, about \$1 million has been invested in sustainable upgrades to the structure. Results from McKinstry's energy audit estimate that Wells Fargo Plaza has lowered its overall electricity consumption by 1.15 million kilowatt-hours per year and its natural gas consumption by 9,485 therms per year, which equates to a 16 percent energy reduction compared to prior consumption.

Additionally, Unico is the first company in Tacoma to partner with the U.S. Department of Energy and ECOtality North America to install commercial-grade electric car charging stations as part of the Federal Government's National EV Project. As a result of this partnership, two Blink Level II electric vehicle charging stations are being installed in the parking garage of Wells Fargo Plaza.

With the LEED-EB Silver certification, total operational savings at Wells Fargo Plaza will be about \$75,000 to \$80,000 per year and the building will see a 29 percent reduction in electricity costs.

Wells Fargo Plaza includes a 25-story office tower, a two-level landscaped plaza with a fountain, a below-grade parking garage and a parking structure that connects to the office tower with an enclosed atrium walkway.