

## Local News Denton

[Comments](#) | Recommended 

# Denton fire station receives 'green' building certification

07:23 AM CDT on Tuesday, August 14, 2007

The U.S. Green Building Council has certified Denton's newest fire station under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system, officials announced Monday.

The \$3.4 million Fire Station No. 7 was built with recycled construction materials, natural lighting, a 22,000-gallon rainwater harvesting system and a geothermal well system to heat and cool the building.

Denton-based Kirkpatrick Architecture Studio designed the four-bay fire station, at the corner of Vintage Boulevard and Bonnie Brae Street, just east of Interstate 35W. The 15,000-square-foot building, which opened in April, includes housing for up to 12 people, office space, a training/community room and a police substation.

The building council established the points-based rating system, known as LEED, to encourage environmentally friendly construction.

Buildings can receive four levels of certification: basic, silver, gold and platinum. Denton's fire station earned enough points for gold certification, even though officials originally only pursued silver, Kirkpatrick Architecture Studio said in a news release.

The highly insulated, energy-efficient building will use about 35 percent less energy than a conventional building, according to the architectural firm. This will be achieved, in part, through the use of geothermal heat pumps and high-efficiency lighting.

Once the landscape is established, irrigation will come entirely from rainwater runoff from the roof and collected in four 5,400-gallon cisterns. Also, low-flow and high-efficiency plumbing fixtures will reduce domestic water use by more than 50 percent.

Other building features were designed to promote the health, comfort and productivity of the firefighters. These include a fitness room, operable windows in the bunk rooms, exterior views from more than 90 percent of the spaces, ample daylight and use of low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) products.