

green business awards FINALISTS



Fernald Nature Preserve and Visitors Center

Category Name: Planet
Location: Harrison
Company: Megan Construction
Size: 10,800 square feet
Cost: \$3.3 million
Completed: August 2008
History: Construction began in December 2007.

It's ironic that the first LEED platinum certified building in Ohio is located at a site that was once a contaminated uranium processing facility. The Fernald Visitors Center was built in an existing 12,000-square-foot steel warehouse building to exhibit the history and ecology of the Fernald nature preserve – from the age of the Native Americans, through its days as a nuclear processing facility dur-

ing the Cold War, to its \$4.4 billion clean-up and subsequent reopening as a nature preserve. The site features geothermal heating and cooling, high-efficiency electrical, water and plumbing fixtures, window placements that optimize sunlight in all seasons, low-emitting building materials, and a bio-wetland that will process all of the building's wastewater. A challenging issue was the geothermal HVAC system. Original plans for a well-based system created a concern about contaminants in the aquifer. The final lake-sourced system was the solution. The design used 23.6 percent recycled materials and 46 percent regional materials.

– Lauren Shellito

