case study

Jet Towel
Educational Facilities
San Francisco, Calif.
California Academy of Sciences Transforms

The California Academy of Sciences is located in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and is a treasure for all things related to nature. The Academy is committed to explore, explain and protect the natural world. This mission extends to all aspects of the institution from teaching teachers and developing innovative displays to the Academy’s newly built headquarters. This headquarters—a multi-level, single structure filled with hundreds of innovative exhibits and thousands of plants and animals—contains an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a four-story rainforest. In addition, there is a 10 theater, a lecture hall, a Natural Cafe, two restaurants, a garden and aviary, a roof terrace, and a more. The building also houses the Academy’s science labs and administrative offices, including an extensive library and archives, counting more than 20 million specimens. The building also represents new heights in sustainable architecture and handsomeness into the park’s landscape.

The Quest for LEED®

During the design and building phases of the headquarters that spanned almost a decade, the Academy demonstrated its commitment to sustainability in all facets of the facility—drum the lake side to the rechargeable vehicle estimate outside, to the no- turf  sub-floor heating, and to the energy-generating oil research, educational outreach, and finding new ways to engage the public. The Academy’s mission is to explore, explain and protect the natural world. This mission extends to all aspects of the institution from teaching teachers and developing innovative displays to the Academy’s newly built headquarters. The quest for LEED is a long road, with many eco-conscious installations along the way. The Academy called on PACARC and their Jet Towel Distributors, located in Seattle, Washington and San Francisco, California, to provide the public with an environmentally friendly learning center, the Academy is thinking about achieving LEED certification for ongoing building operations. If the Academy moves forward with this endeavor, Jet Towel will be a factor in its overall rating.

Jet Towel Equipment Installed:

Jet Towel Equipment Installed: Jet Towel Automated Hand Dryers on the main museum floor, two in each restroom of its fine dining restaurant and two more at the Touch Tidepools attraction.

How did the world’s largest LEED-certified natural history museum and scientific center design its public facilities to be eco-friendly? It was our internal Green Team that came up with the idea of installing an automated hand dryer in the public restrooms,” says Erin Riley, project manager for the California Academy of Sciences. “We had made the decision to compost paper towels used in the staff facilities, but wanted something with a sleek design for guests of the building. It was an add-on that wasn’t suggested by architects, but by our own people.

When the Academy professionals began researching automated hand dryers, they learned they wanted to test the market. Other green designers include using six inches of soil substrate as raingardening, incorporating an expansive floor-to-ceiling glass wall that enables 90 percent of the building’s interior offices to see lighting from nature, and installing recycled denim for wall insulation.

Because of these sustainable advancements, in October 2008 the Academy’s headquarters earned the Platinum rating (highest rating possible) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The Academy’s headquarters building is now the largest public Platinum-rated building in the world, and also the world’s greenest museum.

Incorporating Mitsubishi Electric HVAC’s Jet Towel and LEED

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