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BRDG Park gets Gold LEED

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

There's some new gold to go along with the green at the BioResearch & Development Growth Park at the Danforth Plant Science Center in Creve Coeur.

Word today from the center is that it has become one of a few labs available for lease to emerging life science companies to earn the Gold LEED standing from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Because science labs use five to 10 times more energy than a comparably sized office building, energy savings are important. Building I at BRDG (pronounced "bridge") Park complies with sustainability criteria for energy-efficiency and green technology in construction, design execution and site management, the center people say.

The 100,000 square foot, four-story, building opened in June. It's the first of three buildings at BRDG Park, which will ultimately encompass 450,000 square feet. Designed by Gaudreau Inc., of Baltimore, and built by Tarlton Corp., of St. Louis, Building I at BRDG Park was built in accordance with LEED Core & Shell requirements.

Sam Fiorello, president of BRDG park, says the LEED Gold designation surpasses the Silver status BRDG officials anticipated. Tarlton project engineer Craig Smith says a system that makes sure heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment always run at peak efficiency contributes to a 17.5 percent energy savings. Other features include low-flow water systems and daylight views from 97 percent of the building's interior.

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