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Case Study – Mountain Gear

EDUCATION / HEALTH CARE / LODGING / MANUFACTURING / OFFICE BUILDING / RETAIL / SPECIAL



Outdoor Sporting Company Earns LEED®-NC Gold Rating with Centurion® Rooftop Units

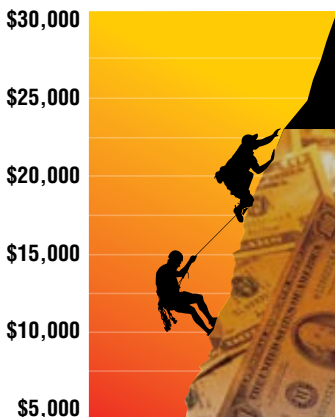
Project Objectives

Sustainability has been a core value at Mountain Gear, Inc., since its beginning 25 years ago in the city of Spokane, WA. The company — which provides equipment for human-powered adventure sports through its home store in Spokane and its ever-expanding online business — serves outdoors-focused customers and shares their environmental values. When Mountain Gear outgrew its original building, it was paramount that its new facility, an existing building that Mountain Gear would renovate to meet its business needs, incorporate sustainable design while upholding the company’s growing profitability.

Solution

The renovation of Mountain Gear’s new facility became a LEED® project under the LEED for New Construction (LEED-NC) rating system. Carrier® Centurion® packaged rooftop units with Puron® refrigerant and ComfortLink™ controls were selected for the new facility, along with other factory-installed and pre-engineered options such as non-fused disconnects, power exhaust, CO₂ sensors and smoke detectors. These features, coupled with the rooftop units’ high efficiency rating and energy-saving fan system, helped to meet LEED-NC requirements and also qualified Mountain Gear for energy rebates from their utility company.

Annual Energy Savings



Carrier’s energy-efficient equipment helped the facility save \$22,000 on electrical and gas energy costs.



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"This was definitely the right choice. The Centurion® rooftop units not only played a vital part in our building being awarded the Gold LEED®-NC rating, but with the new rooftops installed, the building takes care of itself."

Paul Fish, President of Mountain Gear, Spokane, Washington

Project Synopsis

Maintaining the company's core values without carving into its profitability became a significant challenge when a vacant mixed-use building was selected for Mountain Gear's new headquarters and distribution center. Mountain Gear invited Howard Schneider, District Sales Manager at Airefco, Inc., to assist in planning the renovation. The firm suggested making the renovation a LEED® project under the LEED for New Construction (LEED-NC) rating system, specifying Carrier® Centurion® packaged rooftop units with Puron® refrigerant, ComfortLink™ controls and other factory-installed and pre-engineered options such as non-fused disconnects, power exhaust, CO₂ sensors and smoke detectors. With the Centurion's high efficiency ratings — SEER to 15.0 and EER to 12.7 — and its energy-saving fan system, the design solution met LEED-NC requirements to reduce energy costs, and also qualified for energy rebates from their utility company.

In addition to their energy efficiency and qualifications for LEED status, the Centurion rooftop units were ideal because they use Puron refrigerant, a non-ozone-depleting refrigerant. "Gaining LEED credit was significant," said Paul Fish, President of Mountain Gear, "but using an environmentally sound refrigerant was also important to the company's stance on sustainability and environmental responsibility."

Carrier ComfortLink controls and CO₂ sensors enable Mountain Gear to monitor energy use and develop trend logs. Schneider said, "Understanding energy usage within a building is critical, especially with rising utility costs." Thanks to the Centurion-based system and Carrier controls, the facility is 39% more energy efficient than a conventional building of its size. That translates to a savings of \$22,000 a year in gas and electricity costs.

"We're thrilled with the new Centurion rooftops and the entire Carrier system," said Fish. "The equipment played an integral role in our LEED Gold rating, and we enjoy consistent temperature and humidity throughout the different areas of the building. We're even able to service the HVAC equipment easily. But what's best of all?" Fish concluded. "The nearly 40% energy savings. Between the rebates and the energy savings, our return on investment was extremely short. We could not be more pleased."

Project Summary

Location: Spokane, WA

Building Age: 40+ years old

Project Type: Renovation

Building Type/Size: Brick/wood; 150,000 sq. ft.

Building Usage: Company headquarters office, warehouse and shipping

Major Decision Drivers:

1. Efficiency, sustainability and available incentives
2. Integration with leased office spaces (not leased at this time — vacant)

Unique Features: Ultra high efficiency, Puron® refrigerant, non-fused disconnect, single enthalpy economizer, power exhaust, hail guard, ComfortLink™ controls, stainless steel HX, CO₂ sensor, RA smoke detector

Design Considerations:

Multiple units, roof loading. Ability to integrate with other building software systems. Seamless integration with additional leased spaces as they come on line. Manage and monitor building energy consumption.

HVAC Equipment: 17 48PG Centurion™ Packaged Rooftop Units

Total Cooling:

86.5 Tons on Mountain Gear Offices (Approximately 19,500 sq. ft.)

Additionally an approximate 100 Tons will be added as building leased spaces are filled

Objective: LEED-NC

Installation Date: August 2006

For more information, contact your nearest Carrier Representative, call 1.800.CARRIER or visit our web site at www.carrier.com