

Sustainability of CVS Retail Store Prototypes for New Construction

CVS retail store prototypes comprise green building concepts in a retail setting that benefit the surrounding community, employees, owners, occupants and general public. These concepts are delivered to consumers via efficient systems, materials and procedures. It is our purpose to eliminate negative environmental impacts during construction, to facilitate efficient operation during the usage life of the building and to provide a healthy environment for the occupants of our stores.

The CVS retail store entry is a step in the right direction toward reducing our carbon footprint. We require a glazed vestibule that not only allows light to enter the retail space - it saves both heating and cooling energy by acting as an air-lock. In addition, CVS specifies highly efficient, low-E storefront windows, entrance glass doors and transom windows. The glazing used in our retail store prototypes meets or exceeds the current international energy code requirements. Further, the walls, roof, slab, and foundation - with continuous insulation throughout - exceed energy saving envelope requirements specified by the current international energy code.

Our retail buildings are constructed with an erosion and sedimentation plan to reduce pollution from construction activities. We promote utilizing “brownfield” sites which are those that have been previously developed, some of which require remediation of polluted soils. Our retail stores are constructed in record time with efficient use of labor via new technologies in construction. Taking human energy into account, less time spent on the project for each discipline translates into less usage of resource energy - which equals less overall impact on the environment.

We promote biodiversity by encouraging conservation and preservation of natural resources in the area where our retail stores are built. We start

with our greatest natural resource, water. Water use reduction, water efficiency and reduction of storm water runoff (whereby eliminating contaminants) are built into our retail projects. CVS promotes 50% baseline reduction of water use for landscaping on our retail sites. If approved for a particular site, zero irrigation is highly encouraged. We promote landscape design using drought tolerant, native plant species only. CVS entertains the reduction of parking spaces that meet minimum zoning requirements (thereby reducing impermeable surface site area) to aid in storm water reduction as well as reducing heat island effect. Another way we reduce “heat island effect” is by promoting white color roofs and specifying concrete at our handicapped parking spots, thereby maintaining local climate temperature and reducing excessive moisture evaporation from the site’s soil. Inside the building, all of the plumbing fixtures are high efficiency, low water consumption models.

Our retail store prototypes offer special attention to the comfort and well-being of building occupants by using specific materials and systems that provide improved indoor air quality. We use only low-emitting and zero-emitting VOC materials for paint, coatings, adhesives, sealants and flooring materials. CVS also prohibits smoking inside the retail store building. Our HVAC and condensing equipment use zero CFC based refrigerants. Our HVAC systems are equipped with highly efficient filters that remove airborne allergens, particles and spores from the indoor environment. Further, CVS performs a building air flush-out prior to occupancy. All of these items come together to provide a clean and healthy breathing atmosphere.

CVS embraces improved building performance by reducing excessive energy use. We accomplish this by using high efficiency HVAC roof-top units, plus efficient coolers and cooler doors. We use energy efficient LED light fixtures on the exterior of our building and for parking lot lighting. Our interior lighting utilizes sensors and lighting controls for dimming or automatic shut off as part of day lighting strategy. Further, the heating, cooling and lighting are controlled by an Energy Management System. All of these items and systems come together to save energy, and in doing so, also save natural resources.

CVS is committed to reducing our carbon footprint by building energy efficient, low-impact retail stores that provide a healthy environment for its customers and employees.

For further questions regarding sustainability in new construction of CVS retail store prototypes, please contact:

Stephanie Szneke
Architecture and Engineering Department, MC 1190
CVS Health
One CVS Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Stephanie.Szneke@CVSHealth.com