

**Contact:** Paul Foster  
828-465-8661, [pfoster@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:pfoster@catawbacountync.gov)  
**Organization:** Catawba County Library System  
828-465-8292 [www.catawbacountync.gov/library](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library)



---

## **Catawba County Library Awarded Prestigious LEED® Green Building Certification for new Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch**

**Newton, NC** - The Catawba County Library System announced today that it has been awarded LEED Gold Certified for the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch. The LEED rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is the foremost program for buildings, homes and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

“Libraries have the potential to transform lives with the resources and services we provide,” said Library Director Suzanne White, “we’re delighted to be recognized for Gold Certification for our award-winning Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch--and proud to be a model for how we can all succeed in a more sustainable and reduced-carbon society.”

Catawba County Library System achieved LEED certification for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

LEED is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. More than 74,500 commercial and institutional projects are currently participating in LEED, comprising more than 14.4 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and more than 150 countries.

“Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems,” said Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and founding chair, USGBC. “The Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come.”

There are a number of categories that are measured by LEED in determining certification, and in which the Sherrills Ford-Terrell project was designed to meet those standards.

A Bio Retention Basin mitigates storm water run-off. Using native plants for outdoor landscaping eliminates the need for irrigation which contributes to outdoor water conservation, while sensor-activated faucets and waterless urinals save indoor water.

Solar reflectance roofing and clerestory windows that reduce the need for interior lighting combine to lower energy costs. These features are coupled with a state of the art heating and cooling system that functions more efficiently and consistently.

An interior bottle refilling water fountain reduces plastics in landfills, and the low VOC paint provides vivid color throughout, reducing allergens and indoor fumes.

Local suppliers were used as much as possible for the project, reducing carbon emissions and lowering the amount of material transport typical for a project of this size.

“We are excited to have surpassed our goal of Silver Certification. The County has a beautiful branch library that was constructed with environmentally friendly products and is energy efficient.”, said County Purchasing Manager, Debbie Anderson.

For more information about Sherrills Ford Terrell Branch Library LEED Certification visit the website at [www.catawbacountync.gov/libraryLEED.asp](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/libraryLEED.asp).

For the latest in library news, visit <http://librarynews.catawbacountync.gov> or stop by your local branch.

###

**About:** *The Catawba County Library is our community's place to connect, explore, and grow. We empower lives and build our community by bringing people, information, and ideas together. The library, headquartered in Newton, serves the community with seven locations throughout the county and is a year-round, integral provider of early literacy and lifelong learning resources and programming. The library also provides a full complement of computer and digital services, classes, and support to bridge the digital divide, empower job seekers, and enhance community quality of life and economic health.*

