



# NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD CASE STUDY

**Monroe County Crime Lab** – Honored for being a national leader as the first crime laboratory to earn a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC)

## SUMMARY

Monroe County was recognized in 2012 for its outstanding commitment to innovation and environmental and economic sustainability. It is the first crime laboratory in the United States to achieve a LEED Platinum certification, and it is the first government-owned LEED Platinum building in Rochester New York. The design and engineering team was led by LaBella Associates, P.C. located in Rochester. The Crime Lab has clearly demonstrated that municipalities and private companies can construct state-of-the-art facilities while protecting New York’s natural resources and strengthening our economy.

## BENEFITS

This project continues to achieve exceptional environmental benefits and is saving taxpayer dollars through reduced operating costs. It is a fine example of intergovernmental cooperation as the crime lab serves seven other counties and



the City of Rochester. It is the only regional Crime Lab in upstate New York. The effort demonstrates an outstanding commitment to educate the community, building occupants and visitors about sustainable best practices. Visitors in the

## KEY METRICS

- 82% decrease in stormwater runoff
- 70% reduction of potable water use for sewage conveyance
- 47% reduction in energy use with a 35% reduction in energy costs
- 57% reduction of overall potable water
- 2.5% of energy costs are offset by renewable energy
- At least \$79,741 savings annually

## ABOUT MONROE COUNTY

- Monroe County covers 1,367 square miles. The northern part of the county sits along the southern shore of Lake Ontario.
- Population is approximately 750,000

**NYS Environmental Excellence Award:** Annual recognition of outstanding innovative and sustainable projects or programs and unique partnerships that are improving and protecting New York State’s environmental resources and contributing to a stronger economy

## A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

- Used pervious concrete pavement, grass areas and a rain gardens
- Rainwater harvesting system replaced the need for an irrigation system
- Landscaping is drought tolerant
- HVAC and refrigeration avoid CFC-based refrigerants
- Used computer energy modeling to document improved building energy performance
- Installed rooftop-mounted photovoltaic panels
- More than 35% of annual electricity consumption is generated from renewable sources
- 98% of construction debris was redirected to the manufacturing process
- Preferred parking spots have been provided and labeled for low-emission vehicles and those used by carpools
- Eco-friendly transportation choices include access to public transportation; bicycle storage and changing rooms

lobby are able to view a continuous loop video, activated by occupancy, on the sustainable design features of the building. Tours of the building are given upon request. Because the building is located on a previously contaminated site, it is also a successful demonstration of brownfield redevelopment. Significant environmental benefits include an annual 82 percent decrease in stormwater runoff and a 47 percent reduction in energy use which prevents the emission of 714 lbs. of nitrogen oxide, 274 lbs. of sulfur oxide and 387 tons of carbon dioxide. These savings are equivalent to removing 77 cars from the road annually.



## HIGHLIGHTS

The Monroe County Crime Laboratory is a \$23 million, four-story building that houses laboratories and office space in downtown Rochester.

The lab provides high-quality scientific analysis of forensic evidence for law enforcement and public safety agencies in Monroe County and seven adjacent counties as well as the City of Rochester. The nature of this business requires the use of high-tech, sophisticated chemical and digital analytical methods.

Monroe County made the commitment to achieve LEED Platinum certification in accordance with their county-wide green initiatives and to help educate the community and visitors about environmentally responsible building design. County representatives and the project team balanced aesthetics, initial costs and lifecycle costs, constructability and reliability to create an environmentally responsible building. The result is a highly efficient, sustainable facility that uses a multitude of innovative materials and practices.

## FUNDING

Monroe County leveraged various grant monies to assist with construction and/or outfitting specific lab areas. Through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the project was eligible for potential incentives up to \$256,000.