

**Preterm Awarded Prestigious LEED® Green Building Certification
Clinic is first healthcare facility in the nation to receive LEED for Existing Buildings.**

August 20, 2010, (Cleveland, OH) – Preterm, an independent nonprofit abortion clinic on Cleveland’s east side, has been awarded LEED Silver certification for Existing Buildings. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute, is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. Preterm is believed to be the first healthcare facility in the U.S. to achieve LEED for Existing Buildings.

“Preterm has a history of being a visionary leader, providing compassionate, high quality care to women,” said Preterm board president Dallas Schubert. “By becoming a green clinic, we’re extending our care for women’s physical and emotional well-being to encompass the environment in which they live and raise their families. We’ll create cleaner air, use less energy, reduce our footprint and help educate and encourage others to do the same.”

Preterm executive director Chrise France agreed. “Healthcare facilities should be models of sustainability. The state of our environment is a matter of women’s health and public health, but the medical field is especially resource intensive and produces large amounts of toxic waste. Through this LEED renovation project we’re helping lead the medical and nonprofit communities to more sustainable practices, by showing them what’s possible, even for small organizations like ours.”

Preterm’s LEED Silver certification comes after a careful building and systems overhaul to maximize energy and water efficiency, to improve internal air quality, and to implement environmentally sustainable cleaning, maintenance, waste management and purchasing practices. Preterm’s renovations are expected to reduce the clinic’s energy consumption by 20% and water consumption by more than 25%, and the clinic’s recycling and composting programs have cut waste sent to landfills by more than a third.

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

Preterm transformed their clinic with the help of Brennan & Associates and LEED consultant Atlas Architectural Services, including a number of green features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. These features include:

- Upgraded heating and cooling systems to reduce energy consumption and improve air quality.
- Reflective roof to reduce the need for heating and cooling and diminish heat island effect.
- Energy efficient lighting to reduce energy consumption.
- Aerated faucets and dual-flush toilets to reduce water consumption.
- Environmentally preferable purchasing policies emphasizing reusable or recyclable products, less packaging, recycled content, and nontoxic or low-VOC materials. (This includes everything from recycled carpet tiles to reusable medical equipment to nontoxic cleaning supplies.)
- An extensive reuse, recycling, and composting program to reduce waste.
- Education and outreach activities to ensure that Preterm’s efforts are models for individuals, organizations, and other health care facilities to reduce their own impact on the environment.

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Preterm

Preterm was founded in 1974, shortly after abortion became legal in the US, to provide high quality, accessible abortion and related reproductive health services to women in Northeast Ohio. Today we're a state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center with a staff of 43 medical and administrative professionals.

We see ourselves as part of a larger reproductive justice movement. This movement advocates for women's right to determine whether or when to have children, to become parents and parent with dignity, to have healthy pregnancies, and to have healthy and safe families and relationships.

Our concern for the environment is an extension of our concern for the health of women and families. As a healthcare clinic, we have a responsibility to provide a healthy environment for our patients, staff, and community. As a leader in the healthcare community, we have a responsibility to be a model of environmentally sustainable operations and practices.

See www.preterm.org for more information.

U.S. Green Building Council

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 80 local affiliates, more than 18,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 155,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% of water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. Over 32,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising over 9.6 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 114 countries.

By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

USGBC was co-founded by current President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi, who spent 25 years as a Fortune 500 executive. Under his 15-year leadership, the organization has become the preeminent green building, membership, policy, standards, influential, education and research organization in the nation.

For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.