



WANT LEED CERTIFICATION? INVOLVE YOUR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER!

If you ask Steve Schaefer (founder and past president), he will tell you Steven Schaefer Associates has always designed for sustainability. With the term now incorporating green design, we've embraced the opportunities that widespread interest in sustainability presents. Each member of a project team – including the structural engineer – can influence efficient building design, construction, and operation.

Did you know you can consolidate building elements uses and capitalize on their combinations? A concrete wall is not just for supporting roof joists, but it can also resist lateral loads, protect occupants from outside elements, and thermally collect heating and cooling loads.

Challenge the schematic phase design and eliminate redundancies historically found in building design. We embrace building reuse and specialize in strategies to bring existing buildings into compliance with current building codes. Our engineers understand life cycle costs and design for both the long term use of the building and ultimately the structure's deconstruction by recommending sustainable construction materials.

We currently have four engineers who are LEED accredited, and we plan to add more in 2010. Engineers at our firm are personally involved in the development of sustainable materials – Robert Rogers has assisted with product development of Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) and Tom Moore is currently helping promote design using Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs).

Involved early in the project, we can focus on structural efficiency – eliminating unnecessary building materials and reducing the transportation impact of the materials used. Whether it is making recommendations about concrete mix alternatives for residential homes, frost protected shallow foundation design, or using cold formed metal shapes for wall studs and floor framing – we understand which structural materials will help achieve the project's LEED certification goals.

Look for more information related to building green in our *next issue* when we discuss new innovative materials that can affect your project's LEED rating. Steven Schaefer Associates has been an active leader of the development and promotion of these materials. Robert Rogers, P.E., S.E., is currently the Vice-Chair of the ACI (American Concrete Institute) committee on Design and Construction with Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) and Tom Moore, P.E. is chairman of the education committee for the Structural Insulated Panel Association (SIPA). He also serves on the SIPA technical advisory committee, having made a presentation about the structural design of SIPs at the industry's first ever SIP Design Symposium earlier this year.