



## **Robert Redford Building Natural Resources Defense Council, Santa Monica**

### **The Natural Resources Defense Council Achieves Green Shield Certification for its Santa Monica Office**

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (February, 25, 2010) --The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has spent forty years fighting to protect wildlife, wild places and the right of all living things to a healthy environment. Their Santa Monica office has now taken the organization's mission to the next level through the transformation of its office—the Robert Redford Building—into a model of environmental responsibility, efficiency and reduced chemical exposure. These efforts were recently recognized by the independent, non-profit IPM Institute of North America, Inc., which has awarded the facility Green Shield Certification after verifying compliance with its standards through a rigorous, on-site evaluation.

A renovated early 19<sup>th</sup> century building, the NRDC's downtown Santa Monica office is a truly green facility, using 20 percent photovoltaic energy created onsite and reclaiming 60 percent of water through a sophisticated catchment and reuse system. Natural daylight illuminates the offices and all materials were selected for environmental responsibility and to maintain a healthy indoor environment. The facility received the highest rating available by the U.S. Green Building Council through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

In earning Green Shield Certification, the NRDC Santa Monica office has achieved the next level of green; it is the first facility in California and the second nationwide to receive this credential. In keeping with the NRDC's mission to protect people and the environment, the Robert Redford Building's new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach addresses pest problems at their root and protects building occupants from unnecessary and unhealthy pesticide exposure.

Pest management within the building focuses on solving problems with long-term, preventive strategies that deny pests the food, water and shelter they need to survive. Inspection is always the first step, followed by measures to address any pest-friendly conditions. Pesticides are a last resort—only those meeting strict Green Shield Certified criteria for least-toxic products may be used, and only when applied in a reduced risk manner.

The NRDC was founded in 1970 by law students and attorneys working on the front lines of the environmental movement. Today, they have the expertise of more than 300 lawyers, scientists, and policy experts and the support of 1.3 million members aiding their efforts. According to Jonathan Kaplan, NRDC senior policy specialist, "Our Santa Monica office is already a LEED Platinum building and we already have many green practices in place, but working with Green Shield helped us go to the next level to fine-tune our practices and awareness of how we can further protect our environment."

Green Shield Certified is an independent, non-profit certification program that promotes effective, prevention-based pest control while minimizing the need to use pesticides. Green Shield Certified is operated by the IPM Institute of North America, a non-profit organization recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its expertise and accomplishments in promoting integrated pest management.

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