

Holy Wisdom Monastery

In 2009, the Benedictine Women of Madison in conjunction with Hoffman Design, Planning, and Construction successfully finished the construction of what was called one of the "greenest [buildings] in the United States" (Paul Hoffman, Hoffman LLC) at the time.

Key Facts

- Location: 4200 County Hwy M, Middleton, WI.
- Project Type: Religious/Non-Profit New Construction
- Project Size: 34,380 sq ft
- Project Manager: Hoffman Planning, Design, & Construction
- Consultant: Vertegy
- Building Certifications: LEED Platinum
- Completion Date: 2009



A Sustainability Trailblazer

- The monastery scored 63/69 points in its LEED certification, which was the highest score ever awarded for a new construction at the time (2010).
- It obtained a perfect 17/17 score in the "Energy & Atmosphere" category of LEED certification, which includes ratings of energy performance, renewable energy, green power, and measurement & verification.
- In 2014, the building was named MG&E's largest solar power producer.



This document was made with 350 Wisconsin's Community Climate Solutions Team to promote green buildings in the surrounding community.



Environmental Stewardship

For the three sisters of Holy Wisdom Monastery that took on this project (pictured below), green and sustainable living is a spiritual calling. In an article by *The Cap Times*, Sister Mary David Walgenbach (left) states that "our Benedictine values call us to do what we can to conserve precious natural resources on this earth." So, the sisters' commitment to a green design was more than just the right thing to do; it was a non-negotiable necessity from the start.



Geothermal

The monastery's heating and cooling system is powered by 39 geothermal wells, utilizing the heat produced deep within the earth for energy. Not only is geothermal a renewable energy source, but the wells work so efficiently that the monastery is often able to sell energy to the utility instead of buying it.

Window Design

The monastery installed high-performance Andersen wood windows. The energy-efficient windows' special glazing allows them to be great insulators that trap solar heat gains.

Building Materials

The original building on the property, which served as a Catholic school for girls, was demolished; however, 99.75% of that building's material was reused/recycled in the construction of the monastery.

Solar Power

- In 2014, with the help of H&H Electric, the monastery installed 463 on-site solar panels to supplement the photovoltaic panels installed during the initial construction process.
- These panels put the property's total solar capacity at 145.3 kW and provide about 60% of the building's energy.
- In just the first six months, the panels saved 116,543 lbs of CO2 emissions from entering the atmosphere, which is equivalent to planting 2,993 trees.

