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**NY Green Building Store Receives LEED®-Platinum Rating:  
Historic Renovation the Only of its Kind in New York State**

NEW YORK, NY (4/06/10)—One year after its grand opening, Green Depot's store at 222 Bowery has become the first retailer in New York State to receive a LEED® Platinum rating by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the company announced today. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED®, is a certification system established by the USGBC to encourage sustainable practices and materials. Platinum is the highest rating.

The 3,500-square foot store serves commercial and residential customers, and features a wide selection of environmentally-responsible building materials, interior finishes, and home products, including responsibly harvested lumber, insulation, sustainable flooring options, zero-VOC paints and finishes, and products that save water or energy, or are good for indoor air quality.

“Green Depot's LEED certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “The urgency of USGBC's mission has challenged the industry to move faster and reach further, and 222 Bowery serves as a prime example of just how much we can accomplish.”

“Green Depot is the first retailer in New York State to attain LEED Platinum,” said Russell Unger, Exec. Director of Urban Green, the New York City chapter of USGBC. “The store has many features that designers can learn from: practical, economical, elegant, and environmentally responsible. Urban Green is proud to recognize Green Depot for its tremendous achievement.”

“Green Depot's Bowery store—and its new LEED rating—is sustainability in action,” said Rohit T. Aggarwala, Director of the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability. “By making smart investments that save energy and resources, Green Depot is taking small steps that make big strides towards PlaNYC's goals of a greener, greater city. By offering environmentally responsible products to consumers, they make it easier for New Yorkers to follow the advice of our GreeNYC campaigns to save money and save the planet at the same time.”

“Green Depot's flagship store is a testimony to the possibility and promise of green renovation,” said company founder Sarah Beatty. “222 Bowery is a landmark building that embodies so many chapters of New York City's cultural history. We're proud to celebrate that history, while demonstrating the highest performance in green building practice. As a small business owner, I am proud that Green Depot is leading the way.”

The property has a long history of occupants and uses. Constructed in 1885, it was the first YMCA in New York City. It has served as home and workspace for artists Fernand Leger and Mark Rothko,

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and the beat writer William S. Burroughs. Prior to the Green Depot renovation, the location served as a Chairs and Tables Outlet—one of many restaurant supply stores common to this Lower East Side neighborhood. In 1998, the building achieved Historic Landmark status—which made preserving the original shell, façade, and other features imperative. For example, project architects Colin Brice and Caleb Mulvena of Mapos LLC exposed and cleaned much of the original brick, as well as white wall tile from the swimming pool area--using minimalist concrete patches to fill in broken areas. Parts of the original wood floor were sanded and finished, and old doors and scrap pieces of wood were used to build display tables, drawers, and new doors. The result is an urban chic that is authentic, not merely invented.

The project team also selected interior finishes that echo the products that Green Depot sells. The main showroom features a combination of flooring materials, including cork and bamboo (both rapidly renewable), and restored woods. Reused and recycled materials were also incorporated into the store, including a unique pair of chairs made from old hex wrenches and saws found in area antique stores, and product display tables made from reclaimed wood. The bathroom floors are made with TrendQ tile—ultra-thin, brightly colored tile made in Miami from recycled glass. The interior walls are primarily the building’s original brick and tile, sealed with low-emitting finishes (those that don’t off-gas volatile organic compounds). The custom engineered mechanical system, utilizing a high efficiency air handler, air filters and boiler, uses 25% less energy than similar systems. Custom LED and fluorescent lighting fixtures by Mapos deliver retail-specific lighting at 50% of ASHRAE energy standards. These features garnered LEED credits in Materials Reuse, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Energy and Atmosphere.

The washrooms feature water-saving dual-flush Caroma toilets, and Dyson Airblade hand dryers that avoid the use of paper towels, and save energy over conventional hot air dryers.

The store’s “refill bar” consists of 5 converted 30-gallon water coolers filled with Green Depot’s private label non-toxic cleaning products: customers can bring in their own containers for a refill at a discounted price over pre-packaged bottles of cleaner. This unique feature helped the project attain LEED credits in Innovation in Design, and helps customers embrace reuse and recycling.

Over 50% of the total building materials were obtained within 500 miles of the store. “Green Depot takes regional production seriously,” said Jim Holiber, Green Depot General Manager. “That’s why we carry cleaning products, zero-VOC paints, and kitchen cabinetry that are made in the New York City area. We believe in supporting the local green economy.”

Caleb Mulvena, project architect from Mapos LLC said, “The most rewarding experience of this project was methodically peeling away the decades-old layers of ad-hoc renovation and debris to uncover the bones of the landmark building beneath. In revealing and celebrating certain aspects of the original building, we were able to tell a story through design, and as an architect there is nothing more satisfying.”

***About Green Depot:*** *Founded in 2005, Green Depot is the nation’s leading independent supplier of green building products. Green Depot currently has 10 stores and 10 distribution centers across the northeast and Chicago, and an active e-commerce site ([www.greendepot.com](http://www.greendepot.com)). Our infrastructure of warehouses, trucking, rail and export enables us to serve high volume demand from Maine to the Caribbean.*