

MEC Head Office

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



MEC new head office leads green revolution with Insulspan® SIP System

In the progressive city of Vancouver, British Columbia, where all re-zoned space is required to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building standard, outdoor retailer Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) constructed a truly inspiring and sustainable headquarters designed to meet the rigorous level of LEED Platinum, one of the highest green building standards in the world.

The 112,000 sq. ft. office space uses just 30 percent of the energy of an equivalent building constructed to the 2011 National Model National Energy Code for Buildings.

With energy efficiency a major priority for MEC, they worked closely with architectural firm Proscenium to create a high performance building envelope that would maximize the effectiveness of the building's other energy-saving features, such as a geothermal heating system, passive solar heating, and an innovative passive ventilation design.

The Insulspan® Structural Insulating Panel (SIP) System provides a solid core of expanded polystyrene insulation. By limiting the thermal bridging that occurs in traditional wood or metal frame wall construction, the Insulspan SIP system reduces heat loss for



greater energy efficiency. Insulspan SIPs also cuts down on air leakage, further boosting energy efficiency and creating superior indoor air quality.

"High-performance building envelopes are essential to achieving our green building goals," said MEC CFO Sandy Treagus. "Our previous experience with Insulspan's Structural Insulating Panel System for our North Vancouver store made the decision to go with Insulspan for our new head office facility a no-brainer. The system is delivering the results we expected."

Inside, the design reflects MEC's culture of active, outdoor lifestyles, with bike storage for 128 bikes, a bouldering "cave" for resident climbers, and regular fitness and yoga classes in the large multipurpose room.

"It has been great working with a company like MEC that has such a clear vision and sustainable goals," said Insulspan SIPS Sales Manager Dave Stevenson. "I'm happy that the Insulspan SIP system could help them meet their goal of LEED Platinum."

