



Perris News

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer
Phone: 951-956-2120
jvargo@cityofperris.org

Hanesbrands Center is One of the Largest LEED Buildings in the World



Busch and Sbardellati at the monument sign outside the Hanes distribution center on Indian Avenue

Score another big kudo in Perris' ongoing attempts to go green.

The 1.3-million square foot Hanesbrands distribution center at Indian Avenue and Morgan Street recently earned recognition as one of the largest "green" buildings in the world.

The building—nearly half-a-mile long from one end to the other—incorporates skylights, energy efficient ventilation systems, roll-up doors for cross ventilation, electric vehicles and bicycles for employees to get around in and drought-resistant landscaping, all which help reduce its carbon footprint and save energy consumption.

The roof is painted white to reflect sunlight and heat. There's even a high-end cafeteria to keep employees from driving their cars off site on their lunch breaks.

The warehouse will become even more energy efficient when solar panels are installed in the near future.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch and City Manager Richard Belmudez discuss the Hanesbrands building and its energy-efficient construction during a recent tour of the site.



Associate Planner Diane Sbardellati glances at the skylights in the Hanes building. Such skylights save heating and cooling expenses.

"We are doing things on a grand scale in a small town," said Perris Planning Manager Brad Eckhardt. "It's another example of our commitment to sustainability and shows once again how the City has been able to forge an innovative public-private partnership."

The Hanes building recently earned recognition as a LEED building—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—by the United States Green Building Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable building design and construction. Such construction is part of California's ongoing effort to reduce greenhouse gases dramatically in the next few years.

The distribution center opened earlier this year after a frantic building schedule that saw it go from the design phase to a functioning facility in nine months. The Perris City Council and staff fast-tracked construction, recognizing the importance of the Hanes project as a top-of-the-line employer for local residents. The building currently employs about 250 people and is expected to provide up to 350 jobs by next year.

The facility holds 12 million dozen, that's 144 million, pieces of undergarments and socks. Since opening, the Hanes distribution center has sent 27 million dozen to stores all over the U.S.

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch, City Manager Richard Belmudez and Associate Planner Diane Sbardellati recently toured the Hanes building along with representatives from Hanesbrands Inc., Ridge Construction Services, which oversaw construction and NFI Distribution, which operates the site.

Mayor Busch pointed out that the Hanes building is just one of several projects the City is undertaking in its efforts to go green and help save the planet. The Solar Shine project at the City Hall Campus garnered the prestigious Helen Putnam Award from the League of California Cities in 2008. Perris is working with the Toro Company on a water wise demonstration garden at City Hall, where earlier this year, employees planted drought-resistant landscaping as part of Arbor Day festivities.

"The City of Perris continues to show its commitment to the environment through the use of renewable energy sources and construction of energy-efficient buildings," Busch said. "We are proud of the legacy we have created and will continue to build in that legacy."

Construction manager Dave Mount could not say enough good things about the way Perris worked to make the Hanes building happen. Mount said he has worked on distribution centers all over the country but never received the kind of cooperation Perris provided.

"For the City of Perris to take such an active part and to display such cooperation is fantastic," Mount said.

The City Council recently moved ahead with plans for another 900,000-square-foot distribution center just north of the Hanes site. Busch said City officials hope a future center will also be a LEED building. Plans call for that site to be built by the Ridge Property Trust.

Sbardellati said the City of Perris will continue to seek opportunities to lead in the development of green buildings. "This is one of our priorities," she said. "It's a very big deal."