



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Kids deserve healthy environments to live, learn, and thrive in. Using alternate transportation, such as bicycles, low-emitting vehicles, and carpooling reduces greenhouse gases, global climate change, and hazardous air quality. There are design features to help faculty, students, and visitors use alternate methods of transportation at Paradise Elementary School. Bicycle racks and changing facilities are provided to encourage bicycle use. Not only is riding a bicycle healthy for the environment, it also keeps people in excellent physical condition. Preferred parking spaces are provided for low-emitting and fuel-efficient vehicles and carpools. Special parking spaces are provided to reward individuals making an effort to reduce pollution and fuel consumption.



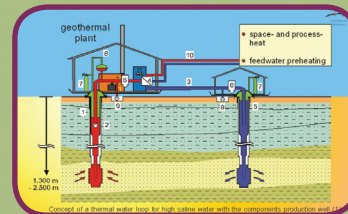
Air Quality

Low-emitting materials are utilized to reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating, and harmful to installers and occupants. All indoor adhesives and sealants, paints and coatings, and carpet systems used have little to no VOC's (volatile organic compounds). None of the composite wood in the school contains ureo-formaldehyde resins.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The engineers utilized building integration while designing the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in the school. This resulted in an energy savings of 42% when compared to a typical school of similar size. The mechanical system used a geothermal heat-pump. Wells were drilled under the parking lot to allow thermal energy to heat up or cool down depending on the outside temperature. If it is a cold day, energy flows underground and is warmed up to the constant groundwater temperature of approximately 50 degrees. If it is a warm day, energy is cooled to 50 degrees. This removes the need to cool or heat very hot air or very cold air. It is much more economical to start at groundwater temperature when heating or cooling a building,



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