

Destiny USA

2015 Sustainability Report

*A Note from Destiny USA's Sustainability Coordinator and USGBC Upstate New York Chapter Board chair elect **Lauren Staniec**:*

In my five year tenure on the Destiny USA project I've witnessed many adaptations of sustainability—from design, through construction, over 65 tenant LEED processes, and now Destiny USA's ongoing green operations. All of these elements of the project have been new and exciting, but 2015 was a hallmark year for Destiny USA's original mission, and my own personal mission as Sustainability Coordinator: Sustainability Education.

Over the year, we have seen an uptick in K-12 schools requesting sustainability tours for students engaged in cross-disciplinary curriculums to learn about sustainability and seek examples of its use in their own community. Destiny USA is proud to partner in these types of educational efforts and I am personally excited to participate in this dynamic 21st Century style learning initiative. Each school district has their unique curriculum and goal, and Destiny USA is privileged to offer any level of requested education from an hour long sustainability tour to a day-long experience of Destiny USA and local education partners providing tours and lectures to students. The response of these sessions has been overwhelming resulting in capstone projects that are then displayed at the mall and stacks of thank-you notes from every single child relaying the topics they found to be of most value. There is no doubt that these students leave our center and their semesters with a sense of environmental education and purpose to also be good stewards of our environment.

It was during my latest student tour and lecture series that our own Director of Operations, Brandon Munger, reminded me of our single largest ongoing operational goal: making Destiny USA a Zero Waste

Shopping Center. This is an amazing feat not only for a large scale commercial project, but also for one of the largest dining, retail, and entertainment establishments in the world. For students and the community, this is one of the easiest sustainability efforts that can be targeted at home, in our schools, and in the office. It is inspiring to me to see how Destiny USA can continue to challenge itself operationally and when no one is "watching", and then share the experience with others to make sustainability relatable.

Lauren Staniec Sustainability Coordinator, Destiny USA



Students from a local technical college tour Destiny USA and learn about sustainability design and construction practices.



2015 Earth Day Celebration

Destiny USA continued its annual Earth Day Recycling collaboration event with local recyclers and not-for profit groups. The April 11th event heeded over 4,000 cars, which diverted literally tons of materials from Onondaga County landfills. Maven Technologies filled 13 tractor trailers with over 325,000 pounds of used electronics. The Salvation Army received over 1,500 pounds of donated clothing and additional electronics for resale. And, DJ's Gift of Warmth received 30 blankets and additional monetary donations for the purchase of new blankets, which the charity then donates to the Rescue Mission's homeless shelters.

Second Annual Textile Recycling Event

November 11th marked the second annual Textile Recycling Event at Destiny USA. This year, Destiny USA and The Rescue Mission opened the holiday season with an event to benefit the not for profit. The Rescue Mission collected 10,000 pounds of recycled textiles this year.

“Destiny USA is proud to co-host textile and e-waste events with other local community organizations. Not only is it important to support the preservation of landfill and green-space in our community, but also ensuring that valuable natural resources are kept in the economic cycle. These types of events support the triple bottom line that is imperative to all communities where social, economic, and environmental efforts can work in harmony.”

-Brandon Munger, Director of Operations at Destiny USA



BOTTOM LEFT:
Volunteers carry donations for the salvation army.



TOP LEFT:
Volunteers help unload used electronic donations.

TOP RIGHT:
Maven Technology trucks carry 325,000 pounds of donated electronics to recycling processing centers.



BOTTOM RIGHT:
Destiny USA collects batteries and fluorescent light bulbs for recycling at the annual Earth Day Event



Destiny USA's Winning Year

Destiny USA Wins Big in the ICSC 2015 U.S. Design and Development Awards

-- Destiny USA wins two awards; among most innovative properties honored at ICSC's 2015 RetailGreen and CenterBuild Conference in Phoenix --

The International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) has announced the winners of the 2015 U.S. Design and Development Awards competition, recognizing excellence, innovation and creativity in the U.S. retail real estate industry. ICSC has named Destiny USA as the Sustainable Gold winner in the Renovations and Expansions Design category. Destiny USA also received a Commendation for being one of the premier design and development projects in the country.

The ICSC U.S. Design and Development Awards competition was open to shopping center owners, developers, management companies, architects, designers, retailers, and other professionals responsible for retail projects or retail store designs that demonstrated outstanding development or redevelopment characteristics with a high degree of creativity and uniqueness within the continental U.S. The competition focused on three general categories: Renovations and Expansions; New Developments; and Retail Store Design (Destiny USA was eligible in the Renovations and Expansions category).

“As the largest LEED® Gold certified retail commercial building in the world, Destiny USA is at the forefront of the increasing importance of commercial properties to address the issue of sustainable design” said Rob Schoeneck, General Manager, Destiny USA. “Our commitment to sustainability is second to none, and we’re honored to be recognized by ICSC with these prestigious design and sustainability awards.”

As a 2015 U.S. Design and Development Gold Award winner, Destiny USA is automatically entered into ICSC’s prestigious VIVA Awards competition and will be eligible to be named the “Best Sustainability Project.” The ICSC VIVA Awards recognize the retail real estate industry’s most cutting-edge properties, innovative solutions and creative responses to market trends throughout the world. The global awards will be presented at RECon in Las Vegas on May 22, 2016.



Local Sustainability Group Honors Destiny USA

The Sustainable Upstate Network (SUN) Group honored Destiny USA as a 2015 SUNRISE Award Honoree. The award recognized Destiny USA for its past and ongoing corporate sustainability efforts.

“Destiny USA is proud to be recognized by the SUN Group. They have such a diverse network of sustainability-minded professionals and their acknowledgment is truly appreciated,” said Lauren Staniec.



Destiny USA Tenant Update

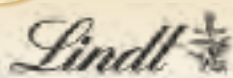
As Destiny USA continues to add to its exciting lineup of tenants, the tally of US Green Building Council LEED Certified tenants also grows. We are so excited to report that in just 3 years there are nearly 65 LEED Certified tenants, all spanning various levels of certification from Certified to Platinum. Destiny USA is proud to be continuing our Green Lease Program and expanding the knowledge of green building throughout the retail design and construction industry.



LEED® Platinum



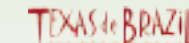
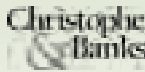
LEED® Gold



LEED® Silver



LEED® Certified



New to LEED?

New to LEED? LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is series of rating systems created by the US Green Building Council to easily identify buildings that have designed and constructed their spaces with best-in-class strategies. For more information on the US Green Building Council's LEED Rating Systems please visit: www.usgbc.org/leed.

Destiny USA's Large Scale Composting Program

Since July 2012 Destiny USA has partnered with Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) and Waste Management to create a commercial scale composting program. Participation has grown to 30 restaurant and food brands property-wide and to date has contributed to over 1.5 million pounds of organic waste being diverted from landfills. According to OCRRA's website, 15% of Onondaga County's waste stream is comprised of food waste which accounts for 39,000 tons annually. For more information on how your company or home can compost food waste in Onondaga County see: OCRRA Food Waste Composting.



The Importance of Composting

Through composting Destiny USA is able to recover approximately 12% of its total waste stream from entering landfills annually. Another 42% of our waste streams are recycled (paper, glass, and plastic materials). But thanks to OCRRA's Waste to Energy Facility, Destiny is able to divert 98% of the balance of materials from local landfills.

BENEFITS OF COMPOSTING:

1. Not only does composting save space in our landfills, but composting creates emission avoidance by reducing methane released in the decomposition process. This reduction of emissions helps to alleviate global warming potential associated with landfills.
2. Composting creates natural, nutrient rich soil resulting in a better medium for planting.
3. Plants grown with compost reduce the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, keeping our ground water clean.
4. Composted soil helps retain moisture in the soil requiring less watering for gardening and landscaping.



Image courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/29278394@N00/>

“As a co-founder of the program at Destiny USA, it has been inspiring to watch composting take root and grow into a truly viable part of our operations program. Destiny, with the hard work of our participating tenants, is proud to contribute to OCRRA's certified composting program who has spearheaded commercial scale composting in the area. Destiny's Operations team has been extremely innovative in all aspects of waste reduction from our site and our community partnerships are what makes these innovations a reality,”

-Dee Ingersoll, Operations Floor Manager at Destiny USA.