

For Immediate Release

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LEED Awards Credit for Building with on-site Flexcar

Car-sharing company makes it easier for commuters to choose greener transportation options

Portland, Ore. (Feb. 1, 2005) — The U.S. Green Building Council recently awarded Portland State University's Broadway Housing project a LEED credit for placement of a Flexcar vehicle on site.

The 384-unit, 10-story, 220,000-sq.-ft. building includes eight floors of student housing, one floor of academic space and ground-level retail. The project is undergoing its final certification review and was designed to achieve a LEED Silver rating. Other transportation innovations include zero on-site parking, a transit-friendly location and ample bicycle storage facilities.

Renee Worme of Gerding/Edlen Development, the project developer, said, "The USGBC recognized that having a hybrid Flexcar vehicle on-site along with PSU's commitment to purchase Flexcar memberships for building residents meets the intent of the alternative fuel refueling stations credit (SS 4.3). PSU's arrangement with Flexcar is an extension of the university's long-standing promotion of transit alternatives campus-wide. With Flexcar on site, residents can avoid owning personal cars, but still have access to vehicles when they need them."

PSU's Transportation and Parking Manager Dan Zalkow added, "With the streetcar, MAX and bus mall nearby, Broadway Housing is ideally situated for students living on campus without a car. Adding Flexcar as an on-site amenity will encourage even more residents to decide against bringing cars to campus. They'll save money, help the environment, spend more time on campus, and over time, PSU won't have to build as many parking facilities."

The LEED decision might very well increase demand for Flexcar vehicles at green building projects. Many Portland Area projects – including the Ecotrust Natural Capital Center, the Henry Condominiums, the Brewery Blocks and The Edge Condominiums -- have Flexcar locations nearby, but until now none were successful in earning a LEED credits for car sharing.

"This really opens the door for other forms of alternative transportation. There are 200 projects seeking LEED certification in the region," said Glen Gilbert, CEO of the USGBC's Cascadia Chapter, "Having Flexcar on location could bring these projects one step closer to their goal."

"This is a real breakthrough for us," said Flexcar General Manager Bill Scott. "With green building and car sharing both entering the mainstream, there should be many more opportunities for us to collaborate with LEED project developers."

Flexcar provides individuals and businesses access to its fleet of environmentally-friendly vehicles, including gas-electric hybrids, located throughout Portland and other major metropolitan areas. Members typically commute by public transportation, carpool or bicycle, and reserve Flexcar's vehicles via the Web or touch-tone phone for hourly use. Flexcar covers the cost of the car, gas, parking, insurance and maintenance. Members access the cars via a specially coded keycard, and pay hourly, daily, or monthly rates for use of the vehicles.

Flexcar has been shown to reduce vehicle miles traveled and increase ridership of public transit. Members typically either sell an existing car, or avoid buying one, after joining Flexcar. Flexcar Portland has more than 5,000 members.

FLEXCAR

Headquartered in Seattle, Flexcar operates car-sharing programs for more than 25,000 members in more than a dozen cities and counties in six states and the District of Columbia. With flexible pricing plans, members can reserve and drive any of these cars whenever and wherever they need to, without filling out complicated paperwork, paying for insurance, gas or repairs. Flexcar Business Memberships enable companies to augment or replace their fleet with Flexcar vehicles. Flexcar's modern fleet includes sedans, gas-electric hybrids, electric cars and specialty vehicles including pickups and convertibles.

Editor's Note: Correct spelling and punctuation of name is "Flexcar," not FlexCar, Flexicar or Flex Car.

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