

GREEN SCHOOLS SUMMIT

Article + 2 paragraph Executive Summary

Article

Green is the New Black

Certified Professionals in Sustainable Design and Construction Mean School Districts See Black, Not Red, on Long-Term Facility Budgets

At the recent 2008 Green California Schools Summit, the focus was on the challenges and benefits in creating sustainable K-12 systems, spotlighting the ongoing cost-savings that green building can produce. Representatives from the building community discussed topics such as sustainable design, construction costs, continuous commissioning, and the technologies now available to the industry.

It was during the round table presentation, entitled “The Sum of Its Parts: Integrated Design in Facilities Planning, that John Hamilton, COO of The Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau, had the opportunity to discuss the importance of selecting qualified and certified providers for cost savings in the construction of green buildings.

Hamilton covered the history of certification programming and what a certified professional means to the integrity of an environmentally sound building project. As part of a panel of experts, he focused on the concepts in the selection of green building environmental system professionals, speaking specifically to the process and requirements for Testing, Adjusting and Balancing (TAB) Certification.

TAB Certification brings professional oversight to any building project with the assurance that HVAC system installation follows exacting criteria set forth by the International Certification Board of the National Energy Management Institute. TAB Certified technicians, supervisors, and contractors are required to maintain high educational and training standards in HVAC system testing, adjusting, and balancing, as well as adhere to a strict professional code of conduct. This gives building project owners and managers a guarantee that their environmental systems are installed according to industry defined and documented best-practice.

Hamilton’s contribution to the panel provided insight to the importance of hiring certified professionals, especially when building quality, efficiency, and overall performance allows facilities to qualify for further awards in cost-savings, as well as recognition from industry, federal, and international agencies such as LEEDS, and Energy Star.

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At December's 2008 Green California Schools Summit, John Hamilton, Chief Operating Officer, Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau (TABB), added his expert insights on the selection of certified professionals during a panel discussion on sustainable design and building. Highlighting TAB Certification, Hamilton discussed the process and requirements for TAB Certification and the type of oversight and integrity TAB Certified technicians, supervisors, and contractors bring to retro-fit and new construction projects.

The Green California Schools Summit is nation's largest green schools event, with a program that covers every aspect of creating healthy, sustainable schools – from green building and facilities management to developing green curriculum. This year's summit focused on the challenges and benefits in creating sustainable K-12 systems.