

There has been great conversation of late regarding the 13 parking stalls located near the front entrance of the YMCA. These stalls are designed for vehicles that are either “Fuel Efficient” or “Low Emission”. The Coal Creek Family YMCA is a Silver Certified LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) facility and we are very proud of this distinction. Click here to understand

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=51>

The parking stalls are **required** for State of Washington LEED certification. Any new building in the State of Washington that receives State money for construction is required to follow and become LEED certified. The YMCA of Greater Seattle received \$3.5M for our Coal Creek and Highline YMCA’s. Therefore, we were required to provide these parking stalls based on the LEED process to secure the points needed for certification.

Please note: The parking stalls are for Low emission or fuel efficient vehicles. For example a diesel would qualify, as would a Hybrid vehicle, and so would some standard unleaded vehicles.

There were a number of construction related methods and elements of design that we incorporated into this facility all of which support our LEED Silver certification. For example, the major areas of accountability include:

- **Sustainable Sites** – *alternative transportation*, storm-water design, construction pollution prevention
- **Water Efficiency** – water efficient landscaping
- **Energy & Atmosphere** – energy systems, refrigerant management
- **Materials and Resources** – Storage and collection of recyclables, materials manufactured locally
- **Indoor Environmental Quality** – ventilation, low emitting materials for paint, carpet and adhesives

We are not intentionally attempting to make a political statement or to aggravate anyone. We are trying to follow the requirements of the State and inform our members regarding our efforts to create, develop and sustain a facility that can help keep our planet around for many years to come.

If you are interested in learning more about the definition of “Fuel Efficient Vehicles” or “Low Emission Vehicles”, or to find out if your vehicle is appropriate for one of these parking stalls, please stop by Member Services to receive an information packet. You may view this list at <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1762> and look under the “sustainable sites: *low emitting/fuel efficient vehicles*” for an Excel formatted listing.

We value our members and appreciate the feedback that has come up over the past two months or so. We are hopeful that our members embrace some of the same core values as the YMCA and emulate honesty, respect, and responsibility when considering how to respond to these parking stalls.

Sincerely,

Brian Prouty
Membership and Community Relations Director