Siemens Branch, Austin, Texas
Becomes the first Green Globes® CIEB-certified building in Austin.

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In September 2012, the 14,860 square foot Texas branch of Siemens Building Technologies Division earned the distinction of becoming the first facility in Austin to receive Green Globes® certification forContinual Improvement of Existing Buildings (CIEB). Green Globes is a certification awarded by the not-for-profit Green Building Initiative (GBI). It recognizes commercial and government buildings that operate under the organization’s high standards for sustainability and energy efficiency.

Objective
As part of a global leader in providing smart, efficient and sustainable solutions in the marketplace, the Austin branch wanted to ensure its office was “walking the talk” on sustainability and maintaining the Siemens standard for efficiency. However, given that it is located in a multi-tenant building, the office could only address goals it was able to control within its own space. Even with its restrictions, Siemens was intent on demonstrating its continued commitment to sustainability, and so it sought Green Globes CIEB certification.

Solution
Employing the expertise it uses for its own clients, the Austin office’s staff performed an energy and sustainability audit of the building’s systems, mechanical infrastructure and operations and maintenance practices. Based on their findings, the staff was able to pinpoint areas of improvement that would result in greater operational efficiency and reduced cost. “We were able to leverage our expertise in energy conservation, building systems and project management throughout the entire building certification process,” says Vanessa Maryott, Siemens Energy Engineer and Project Manager. With support from the Building Technologies Sustainability Committee, the Siemens in-house team implemented a range of improvements to reduce energy, water and waste. And to better align itself with the requirements for Green Globes certification, Siemens adopted new energy and environmental policies, improved its recycling program and adopted green cleaning practices. In addition, the team created building operating manuals, standardized documentation, and regular staff training to ensure that sustainability improvements are maintained. The notable facility upgrades include:

Lighting retrofits – The team installed energy-efficient T8 and T5 electronic ballasts throughout the facility. In addition, occupancy sensors and daylight controls were installed to further reduce energy use.

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Sharene Rekow, VP of Business Development, The Green Building Initiative
Utility metering –
Electricity, natural gas and water data is now channeled through Siemens APOGEE® Building Automation System and into Siemens cloud-based Energy Monitoring & Controlling (EMC) system. EMC’s integrated dashboard easily lets the staff understand trends, reports and notifications.

Demand-controlled ventilation –
Siemens installed the new Siemens 3-in-1 sensors (temperature, humidity and CO₂) throughout the facility and implemented demand-controlled ventilation for improved indoor air quality for occupants at significantly less energy cost.

Results
After Siemens completed these improvements, the work was verified through a comprehensive site audit conducted by a certified Green Globes assessor. The Austin branch earned 691 out of 912 possible points, or a rating of three out of four Green Globes. By utilizing its own innovative technologies to meet GBI criteria, the Siemens Austin branch will reduce energy and operational costs and further its sustainability goals for the long term. The Austin, branch office is the first Siemens facility to earn Green Globes certification, and the experience and documentation will serve as a model as other locations pursue certification.

This recognition by the GBI clearly demonstrates Siemens leadership in applying best practices regarding energy, water and environmental efficiency. “The fact that the building rated three Green Globes shows the company’s commitment to operating and maintaining an environmentally sound space and speaks highly to Siemens commitment to sustainability,” says Sharene Rekow, VP of Business Development for the GBI. “Siemens truly is a company that walks the talk.”

“We are extremely proud of how all of our employees in Austin played a part in the process and joined together to make certification a reality.”

Mike DeHart, General Manager Austin branch Siemens Industry, Building Technologies Division