

SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS

SUSTAINABLE FOUNDATION SYSTEM HELPS ACHIEVE LEED® PLATINUM CERTIFICATION

Sustainable construction was a top priority for the new Little Rock, ARK, headquarters of Heifer International, a non-profit organization addressing world hunger. In keeping with the company mission, the design-and-build team was tasked with ensuring jobsite preparation and construction were models of sustainable design.

The four-story, 94,000-sq-ft structure is the first Platinum LEED certified building in Arkansas, the only one in the South Central United States and just one of 65 nationwide.



Tim Hursley

Designed by Reese Rowland, principal in the Little Rock architectural firm of Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter, the building encompasses numerous green features including the Geopier® soil reinforcement system.

Rammed Aggregate Pier® (RAP) engineered foundation solutions provided assistance with LEED certification goals by using recycled concrete from old warehouses crushed on site in pier construction. In doing so, the RAP process diverted demolition debris from landfills.

Additional sustainable benefits were:

- Reduction of high fossil-fuel consumption needed for massive over-excavation and replacement
- Eliminated the potential for harmful water runoff, siltation and environmental disturbance with dry RAP process
- Reduction of environmental noise levels

More than 450 RAP elements were installed in just over two weeks, providing substantial cost savings and an accelerated construction schedule compared to conventional techniques. ■