

## Green Buildings

By now, you've probably heard that DENR is in the process of building the Green Square Complex – an environmentally-friendly office building for the department and a “green” addition to the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences – in downtown Raleigh (check out DENR's Green Square Intranet page at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/greensquare/home> -- need to sign in with your NCID in the upper right hand corner.)

Green buildings are designed to operate more efficiently, provide more natural daylight and excellent indoor air quality as well as use about half the energy of conventional buildings. Every year, more North Carolina buildings are certified as green buildings. Studies show that green buildings provide more pleasant working conditions, reduce sick time and increase productivity and morale. Information about LEED certification can be found on the U.S. Green Building Council's Web site at: <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>.

DENR put a Green Building Policy in place on March 3, 2004. This policy requires DENR agencies to use sustainable and green building practices wherever feasible and practical. The DENR Green Building Policy can be found at: [http://www.enr.state.nc.us/docs/green\\_building\\_policy\\_0304.pdf](http://www.enr.state.nc.us/docs/green_building_policy_0304.pdf).

In addition to reducing long-term costs and environmental impacts, green building practices play an important role in increasing environmental awareness and productivity of DENR's employees. Resources for state employees can be found at the N.C. Project Green Web site at: <http://www.ncprojectgreen.com/buildings/home.asp>.

Green Square's official groundbreaking is April 22, Earth Day. Don't forget to come out to show your support!