



GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVE™

WHOLE FOODS MARKET

CASE STUDY

Where Green Building is the Natural Choice!

WHOLE FOODS MARKET HAS GOT BUILDING GREEN IN THE BAG. A RECYCLED PAPER BAG, THAT IS.

A leader in the green building movement, this organic grocery store chain is setting a fresh example with its decision to assess and certify new and existing stores with the Green Globes system.

In addition to being the first major retailer to offset 100 percent of its energy use with wind energy credits, Whole Foods Market has demonstrated fresh thinking with its use of solar power, company-wide recycling programs and internal green building programs. Two Whole Foods Markets have already completed the requirements to qualify for Green Globes Certification, with more to follow. The Dedham, MA store, which generates almost all of its power on-site, achieved a rating of Three Green Globes. Green Globes Certification demonstrates a standard of performance for commercial building sustainability.



Why Green Globes?

Green Globes® is a revolutionary green building guidance and assessment program that offers an effective, practical and affordable way to advance the overall environmental performance and sustainability of commercial buildings. Essential elements of the Green Globes system include:

- Comprehensive environmental assessment protocol
- Software tools that speed and simplify online assessment
- Best practices guidance for green construction and operations
- Qualified assessors with green building expertise
- Rating/certification system
- Environmental Assessment Areas

Based on its recognized and proven assessment protocol, using the Green Globes software tools and ratings/certification system ensures that environmental impacts are comprehensively assessed on a 1,000 point scale in multiple categories:

- Energy
- Indoor Environment
- Site
- Water
- Resources
- Emissions
- Project/Environmental Management

Green Globes is ideal for retail environments such as Whole Foods Market because of its integration with the ENERGY STAR® program—which includes supermarkets as a building occupancy category—and because it accommodates different building scenarios by not applying penalties for features that aren't applicable. For example, the lighting needs of a grocery store are specific because of the required combination of product lighting and overall store lighting. The ENERGY STAR program captures energy in general, including lighting, while the Green Globes tool emphasizes performance over prescription and allows unique lighting solutions.



Whole Foods Market's notable green building accomplishments since opening its first store in Austin, TX in 1980 include:

Wind power – Since 2006, the company has purchased renewable energy credits from wind farms to offset 100 percent of the electricity used in its stores and other facilities in the U.S. and Canada.

Solar power – Numerous stores supplement the wind credit purchase with solar panels. A typical solar installation can produce and save more than 2.2 million kilowatt hours over 20 years and result in more than 1,650 tons of avoided carbon dioxide emissions.

Waste reduction – Paperless order systems, biodegradable supplies for food and wine sampling, and a ban on plastic bags all help to reduce waste. Spoiled produce and other biodegradable waste that used to go to landfill is now composted and either donated to community gardens or sold in stores, reducing landfill waste in some regions by up to 75 percent.

Whole Foods Market is the world's leader in natural and organic foods, with more than 270 stores in North America and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit www.wholefoodsmarket.com.



Green Globes Ratings

Once an assessment is verified by a third party, properties achieving a score of 35% or more receive a Green Globes rating based on the percentage of total points (up to 1000) achieved.

85-100%		Reserved for select building designs which serve as national or world leaders in energy and environmental performance. The project introduces design practices that can be adopted and implemented by others.
70-84%		Demonstrates leadership in energy and environmental design practices and a commitment to continuous improvement and industry leadership.
55-69%		Demonstrates excellent progress in achieving eco-efficiency results through current best practices in energy and environmental design.
35-54%		Demonstrates movement beyond awareness and commitment to sound energy and environmental design practices by demonstrating good progress in reducing environmental impacts.

