

PROJECT PROFILE



> **Green Globes for Sustainable Interiors**

A GREEN GLOBES FOR SUSTAINABLE INTERIORS CERTIFICATION PROMOTES INDUSTRY EDUCATION

A sustainable interiors project in Washington, D.C., is having far-reaching impacts. The Vinyl Institute wanted to create positive changes inside its new office space despite the lack of control over building systems and building owner decisions.

Representing vinyl resin producers who develop products that fit into green building solutions, Dick Doyle, president and CEO of The Vinyl Institute, says his organization pursued Green Globes SI certification out of a shared commitment. “Our team met on a regular basis to factor in sustainability and resilience,” Doyle recalls. “Then, we worked with our members to see how we could incorporate vinyl products into the formation of a sustainable space. Our manufacturers donated flooring, wallcovering, cabling and wiring that earned points for various sustainable attributes and helped us achieve our SI certification.”

Roger Sola-Sole, Partner at OTJ Architects in Washington, D.C., led the design team. “We ran Green Globes parallel to our design phases so that, as we came up with strategies, we made sure we were following the guidelines,” notes Sola-Sole. “It was an intuitive process.”

Doyle says the path to certification became a continual education for his organization. “We learned a lot through the process—recycling, power use, water use—they all factored into the decisions we made to minimize environmental impacts of our new office space.”

“The assessor was really accessible, which allowed us to have a true dialogue with him. Rather than running the design and evaluation separately, he was able to inform the process.”

ROGER SOLA-SOLE,
Partner at OTJ Architects in
Washington, D.C.



HIGHLIGHTS THAT HELPED THE VINYL INSTITUTE RECEIVE TWO GREEN GLOBES INCLUDE:

- Lighting controls such as miniblinds, sunscreens and blackout shades that mitigate the office's abundant direct sunlight and the addition of glass walls and partitions to brighten the interior, reduce artificial lighting demands and give occupants access to natural light.
- Energy-saving strategies that include LED and compact florescent lighting on occupancy sensors or/and dimmers.
- Energy Star-rated appliances
- Materials that were low or no-VOC to safeguard occupant health and control of dust, odors and irritants during construction to protect other tenants who occupied the building



VALUABLE SUPPORT

Doyle was impressed by the level of communication the team had with the third-party Green Globes Assessor who was involved early on. "The assessor was terrific," Doyle remarks

"It wasn't thumbs up or down; he supported our collaboration with expertise and ideas. For us, it made the process transparent and promoted stakeholder involvement."

Green Globes' interactive approach appealed to Sola-Sole, as well. "During the walkthrough, it was really effective to have a sit-down with our assessor, the contractor, building owner and client to address specific points and engage in a productive dialogue." The recommendations in the final report also extended the conversations. "The final report gave the client things to consider in terms of maintaining and further improving the sustainability of their office space, like setting up recycling or instituting environmental policies. Green Globes is a resource for not only designing but occupying your space," affirms Sola-Sole.

Proud of the accomplishment, Doyle indicated that several hundred vinyl industry executives and other dignitaries have come through the new office since the beginning of the year. "We have an absolutely beautiful space that helps me educate and inspire others to advance their commitment to sustainable practices," Doyle says. "Even the building owner now gives tours of our space to his prospective tenants showcasing the benefits of Green Globes."

"With any client, it's important to understand the message the space needs to convey, and certification is a great message to deliver," says Sola-Sole. "The Vinyl Institute has taken that extra step to make sure their space is responsible and their Green Globes certification shows it."

> 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 1,000) achieved.

85-100% (FOUR GREEN GLOBES)

Demonstrates national leadership and excellence in the practice of water, energy and environmental efficiency to reduce environmental impacts.



70-84% (THREE GREEN GLOBES)

Demonstrates leadership in applying the best practices regarding energy, water, and environmental efficiency.



55-69% (TWO GREEN GLOBES)

Demonstrates excellent progress in achieving reduction of environmental impacts and use of environmental efficiency practices.



35-54% (ONE GREEN GLOBE)

Demonstrates a commitment to environmental efficiency practices

