

Town of Quispamsis, NB
2012 CAMA Environment Award
(Population under 20,000)
qplex

Quispamsis, NB is home to the qplex, one of Atlantic Canada's first Gold LEED facilities. The facility serves as an example of a progressive, environmentally-friendly sport and community facility.

The qplex was designed and constructed to meet the Gold standard under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, one of the highest certifications from the Canada Green Building Council.

The Town's goal was to create a facility that would become a showcase for the sustainable use of energy resources. The facility boasts a geothermal heat recovery system; an electric Zamboni that produces zero emissions; motion-sensored lighting throughout the facility; and, three water collection systems, including one that captures rain water for use in toilets, ice making and swimming pool top-up.

There were extra costs associated with the capital costs of building in order to meet LEED Gold Building certification. However, Town Council was willing to meet these costs, with the promise of operational savings being accrued over the long run.

The 75,000 sq. ft. qplex is a multi-purpose recreation and conference centre. It features an NHL size ice arena, 4,000 square foot conference centre, indoor walking track, and a YMCA/YWCA Childcare Centre. Outside there's a junior Olympic swimming pool, full access playground and dog park. The facility opened in March 2011.

The community has also been involved in other environmental initiatives, including COMEX, the region's Park n' Ride program, the restoration of the former Matthews Cove sewage lagoon into a viable wetland, and the diversion of Saunders Brook back into Matthews Cove.

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