

Green Footprints Across the City

It is difficult to miss the increased campaigning across the globe about what it means to be green. Organisations and activists alike constantly remind us that it has become our very duty as global citizens to strive to preserve the planet we call our home. The harsh reality, however, is that seldom are these eco-friendly ideas actually put into practice.

As new buildings continue to populate the city, at least one company has made it their mission to lead the green revolution, with property investors, PrimeTime, stepping up to set an example for the rest. Their latest development, Prime Plaza, nestled in the heart of Gaborone's new CBD, is set to be one of the greenest buildings in the city.

Prime Plaza is fitted with the latest eco-friendly measures, with every effort being made to ensure the development leaves a positive mark on the planet. Sun screening has been fitted on the north, east and west facades, with solar shield glazing and solar geysars also in place. The buildings have been correctly orientated on an east/west axis so that enough sunshine in during winter to avoid excessive use of heaters and yet not too much sun so that air conditioning is forced to run throughout summer. At the same time, a VRV system has been installed that ensures all air-conditioners are run simultaneously, ultimately using less electricity than the usual split units.

In addition, each building is equipped with low volume flush toilets, waterless urinals, sensor taps, on/off sensor lights and electronic ballast light fittings. This ensures that water and electricity wastage is avoided, especially as Botswana already suffers with both of these resources.

To further reduce water wastage, grey water harvesting and stormwater harvesting are to be used for landscaping along with air-conditioning condensate harvesting to ensure maximum water recycling. In terms of greater sustainability, landscaping also plays a pivotal role. Prime Plaza, though having only been recently completed, offers an aesthetically pleasing sea of green trees. The landscaping thus adds a level of beauty as well as having a highly positive effect on the environment.

Prime Plaza appears to have every aspect geared towards being as environmentally friendly as possible, with even the paint on the walls being "green". Approved by the Green Building Council, the paint adorning the walls of each building has reduced VOC content and contributes towards points in the IEQ category of Green Star SA. Finally, the services of a waste management company have been enlisted to "manage" the garbage and ensure all recyclable materials are effectively recycled and re-used.

What this means is that every effort has been made to ensure that the complex ultimately works to lessen the Prime Plaza carbon footprint. At the same time, none of the initiatives put into place will in any way compromise the comfort of the tenants or owners. In fact, it actually inspires them, and others, to join in the green cause and make their own positive difference.

PrimeTime's actions to go green beyond just putting out the recycling are testament to the fact that it is possible, in Botswana, for companies to work towards sustainable environmental care. It is promising to see that not only is it possible, but it is ultimately more rewarding than one might first imagine.

It begs the question, then: will others follow? Perhaps Botswana will not be lagging behind in the eco-friendly space much longer.

Prime Plaza is a Time Projects development for PrimeTime. For more information, go to www.primetime.co.bw, email: info@primetime.co.bw or call +267 3956080.