

Mountain Equipment Co-op

North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



MEC selects Insulspan® SIPs for signature green retail store

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) has built a reputation for providing Canadians with quality outdoor gear and doing so with environmental sustainability in mind. The company's goal to protect the natural playground enjoyed by their customers is reflected in their products, operations, and new 21,000 sq. ft. retail location in North Vancouver, British Columbia.

"MEC builds and operates some of the most energy-efficient retail buildings in Canada," said CFO Sandy Treagus. "The North Vancouver store exemplifies our commitment to reducing our environmental impact through a highly evolved green building program."

To cut down on the building's energy use and meet the stringent LEED Gold standard, MEC selected the Insulspan® Structural Insulating Panel (SIP) System for the walls and roof. Insulspan SIPs enclosed the building with rigid closed-cell foam plastic insulation and a complete air barrier—greatly reducing heating and cooling needs. MEC estimates the building will use 45 percent less energy than a code-built retail facility.

"Insulspan's structural insulated panels met several key

objectives: they provide a high performance airtight wall assembly that can be erected relatively fast and, at the end of the building's life, disassembled in large pieces," Treagus added.



Clerestory windows in the building's distinctive sawtooth roof disperse natural light over the retail floor, while daylighting and occupancy sensors dim

electric lights when they are not needed. An innovative radiant heating and cooling system circulates hot or cold water through the building's concrete slab based on predictive controls that adjust for the upcoming weather forecast. These high tech features are blended with native landscaping, onsite stormwater management, and siting that seamlessly integrates with the adjacent trails of Lynnmouth Park.

"We are very pleased that MEC has specified the Insulspan SIP System for this impressive green building" said Insulspan SIPS Sales Manager Dave Stevenson. "It is truly exciting to see our product help meet the ambitious energy-saving and sustainability goals of a progressive company like MEC."