

Shlachter & Co.: Fort Worth company is certified green

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"I really enjoy it. But I must be doing something wrong," he said. "I haven't gotten a speeding ticket yet."

For the rest of the several hundred people in the audience, Whitacre offered certificates entitling them to buy a new GM car or truck at the discounted price that employees of GM suppliers pay.

Green honor

AUI Contractors of Fort Worth is among the first group of 15 construction companies nationwide — and the only one in Texas — to be named a Certified Green Contractor by the Associated Builders and Contractors.

The industry group's certification program recognizes construction companies that implement green practices and principles in the workplace, including headquarters, branch offices and job-site offices. An on-site assessment by a third party was done after AUI Contractors submitted an application detailing its "green" efforts.

AUI President Doug Alumbaugh said the company is

honored.

"Leadership and support of this sustainability effort has come from all levels of our organization, making this certification a real team achievement," Alumbaugh said.

The certification is one more way that ABC can support and recognize members that are promoting sustainability practices, said W. Brewster Earle, ABC's national green building committee chairman. "ABC members have been on the forefront of the green building movement since its inception, but ABC also believes in stretching green achievements beyond the construction process and into the workplace," he said.

Certification involves 13 prerequisites, ranging from distributing documents electronically to establishing an aggressive recycling program, according to AUI Contractors.

Companies are also required to fulfill at least 12 of 36 elective items that include such things as conducting a professional energy audit, water conservation and providing incentives for carpooling or using public transporta-

tion, the company said.

In addition, each company must achieve four education and training benchmarks, such as instructing employees on sustainability and requiring at least 25 percent of its managers to receive green building awareness education.

Some of things AUI Contractors did were to install low-flush toilets, waterless urinals and sensor-controlled faucets in restrooms; use non-toxic biodegradable cleaning supplies; establish a policy of copying documents on both sides of paper; and provide managers with green building awareness training.

Texas Health buys ahead

Arlington-based Texas Health Resources bought about 30 acres off Interstate 20 and Ranch Head Road in the Parker County community of Willow Park.

Parker County is a fast-growing community, and residents will need additional medical facilities in coming years, company spokesman Wendell Watson said.

What the facilities will be has not been decided, nor is there a timetable for construction, he said.

At the beginning of the year, the company bought 40 acres on Golden Triangle Boulevard, east of Interstate 35W in Fort Worth's Alliance corridor. The medical provider said it plans to break ground on a full-service hospital there in the fall.

The company recently opened an outpatient center in Burleson and is in a joint venture with Centerre Rehabilitation Hospital to build a \$14 million rehab hospital across from Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth.

Texas Health Resources serves 16 counties in North Central Texas. It has 13 hospitals and 27 other healthcare facilities. Texas Health is also a partner in six other hospitals and surgery centers.

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