

Mountain Equipment Co-op

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



MEC expands green store with Insulspan® SIPs

When it opened in June of 2000, Mountain Equipment Co-op's (MEC) Ottawa store was the first retail building to meet Canada's rigorous C2000 Green Building Standard—a Natural Resources Canada program requiring a 50 percent reduction in energy use. In 2012, the outdoor retailer decided to expand the store with a 10,000 sq. ft addition. They tapped the store's original architect Linda Chapman to design an addition that matched the sustainability of the original building and maintained consistency with MEC's environmental goals.

Chapman's design for the two-story addition began with an energy-efficient building shell using the Insulspan® Structural Insulating Panel (SIP) System for the walls.

"Energy efficiency was absolutely a priority for MEC," said Chapman. "I had used SIPs before for lots of residential projects, and MEC had used them on other stores, so they wanted to use them on this store."

Insulspan SIPs deliver rigid closed-cell foam plastic insulation for better thermal resistance than comparable building systems. Higher effective thermal resistance and less air infiltration result

in lower operating costs for MEC and a smaller environmental footprint.



Insulspan's precision prefabricated SIPs also helped construction crews complete the addition in record time.

"From the improved thermal performance of the building envelope to the ease and speed of assembly, Insulspan's structural insulating panels are an integral part of the Ottawa store's sustainable building features," said Sandy Treagus, MEC CFO.

Improving the building's energy efficiency did not stop at the building enclosure. Triple glazed windows, radiant heating, and a combination of LED and fluorescent lighting further reduced energy use. Rainwater is collected in a large cistern and later used to flush the building's toilets. Throughout the building, non-toxic, durable and locally-sourced materials were specified where possible.

"It is great to work with a company like MEC and to see the Insulspan SIP system contribute to the sustainability of their buildings by saving energy," said Plasti-Fab Sales Representative Francois Brossard.