

Montreal Building Aims To Be Country's Greenest

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The Centre for Sustainable Development officially opened its doors Thursday. (CBC)

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Beginning of Story Content

A new building on Montreal's Ste-Catherine Street aims to be one of the most environmentally-sustainable in the country.

The Centre for Sustainable Development officially opened its doors Thursday and will be home to eight organizations, including the environmental group Équiterre.

"One of the reasons we built this is to inspire people from the building industry [and] citizens in general to see how far you can go in making buildings greener," said Équiterre executive director Sidney Ribaux.

The five-storey building includes a green rooftop, living walls with built-in hydration systems and geothermal heating. Many of the materials used to build the structure were recycled or repurposed from other industrial projects.

What the building doesn't have is a parking lot, something Ribaux said they purposely omitted.

"We actually asked for an exception to municipal bylaws to be able to not have a parking lot for cars," he said. "But obviously we built a parking lot for bicycles, and we also have two subway stations nearby."

Ribaux said the building will host many public events, giving Montrealers a chance to stop by and have a look at the innovative structure.

The centre is collectively owned by the organizations that occupy the building, including the Quebec headquarters for the David Suzuki Foundation and Amnesty International.