

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta

1382 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, GA 30309

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta (BBBSMA) is a nonprofit whose mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better. While BBBSMA is committed to improving the lives of the children it serves, it is also dedicated to preserving the environment and employing sustainable practices. In 2010, BBBSMA purchased an existing building (originally constructed in 1912) to expand into a new facility. To ensure that the building met their sustainability standards, BBBSMA applied for a LEED assessment from Southface with their own funds.

The audit revealed that replacement of the current HVAC system with a new ductless system, along with upgrades to the insulation and lighting, would have a significant environmental impact and considerably decrease their utility costs. BBBSMA received \$50,000 of implementation funding from the GoodUse (formerly Grants to Green) program to put towards the project. BBBSMA replaced the HVAC system with energy-efficient split system units, upgraded existing lighting to energy efficient lighting with motion sensors, and purchased Energy Star equipment. BBBSMA also implemented energy saving policies including an energy and resource conservation policy, an alternative transportation program, and a recycling program.



These efforts have resulted in great success. To date, they have reduced their energy and water usage by 54% and saved nearly \$76,000 in utility costs. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta is proud to be the first Big Brothers Big Sisters agency with a LEED certified building.

SITE DETAILS

Building constructed in **1912**

IMPROVEMENTS

- Replacing the HVAC system
- Upgrading existing lighting
- Reusing carpet and other building materials
- Using low-emitting materials
- Instituting an energy and resource conservation policy
- Implementing an alternative transportation program
- Implementing recycling and use of non-disposables
- Using green cleaning products

BASELINE UTILITIES BENCHMARKS

- \$40,094** spent on energy per year
- 165.3 kBTU** of energy per square foot per year

IMPACT

- Reduced their energy and water usage by **54%**
- Saved nearly **\$76,000** in utility costs