

Orange County Sanitation District OC San Headquarters

NEAA26 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

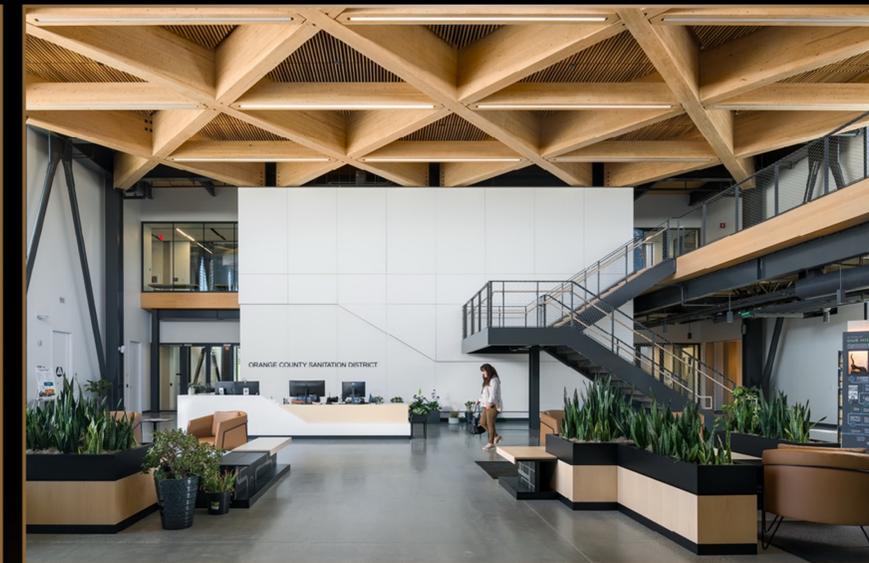


National Environmental
Achievement
AWARDS

OC San Headquarters

Completed in 2024

- 60% more energy-efficient than conventional office buildings
- Thermal energy loop transferred through a 220-foot skybridge to heat a significant portion of the building
- Biogas from Reclamation Plant No. 1 to offset nearly all remaining energy demands
- 95% reduction in CO₂ emissions
- Incorporates sustainable materials, including mass timber and steel



109,000 ft², three story building



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Member Spotlight- OC San Headquarters



The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) has long been recognized as a leader in environmental stewardship, and its new Headquarters in Fountain Valley takes that commitment to the next level. Completed in 2024, this 109,000-square-foot, three-story facility exemplifies how public infrastructure can align sustainability, innovation, and community engagement under one roof.

Designed as a net-zero energy building, the Headquarters integrates advanced technologies and thoughtful design to reduce its environmental footprint. It is 60 percent more energy-efficient than conventional office buildings and features a pioneering thermal energy loop that reuses heat from OC San's adjacent wastewater treatment process. Transferred through a 220-foot skybridge, this heat supplies a significant portion of the building's heating needs—an innovative solution that highlights OC San's integrated, systems-based thinking.

Further reducing emissions, the facility utilizes biogas from the treatment plant to offset nearly all remaining energy demands, resulting in an estimated 95 percent reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to previous administrative buildings. The structure also incorporates sustainable materials, including mass timber and steel, cutting embodied carbon by 58 percent while improving thermal performance and indoor air quality.

But the impact goes beyond energy savings. The Headquarters serves as a public learning hub, welcoming over 3,000 visitors annually and showcasing OC San's mission through interactive exhibits and educational spaces. With LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification and a clear path to Platinum, the project is a model of what's possible when utility infrastructure is reimaged for long-term resilience and public benefit.

Funded through OC San's capital improvement program at a cost of \$99 million, the building represents a strategic investment in the future—lowering operational costs, bringing staff that were in 9 different buildings together which enhances staff productivity, and increasing public awareness about sustainable water management.

OC San's new Headquarters isn't just a building—it's a bold statement about the future of public service, proving that sustainability, efficiency, and community engagement can go hand-in-hand.