

Founding

Leonardo Academy is a charitable 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 1997 by its president, Michael Arny, to advance sustainability and environmental improvement. At that time, Michael Arny was the Co-Chair of the Wisconsin State Committee that had developed a state-wide emissions inventory and reduction cost study that covered all emissions sources in Wisconsin, including those that affect climate and human health. This study documented the need for action to reduce emissions and the tremendous practical opportunities that exist for reducing these emissions.

Having been a utility regulator for 14 years, Michael recognized the need for putting the competitive market to work on achieving environmental objectives in addition to legislation and regulation; hence, Leonardo Academy was created. Since that time Leonardo Academy has worked on a broad range of interconnected environmental and sustainability issues including emissions, financing building efficiency and emission reductions, buildings, transportation and agriculture.

Core Strategies

Leonardo Academy's core strategies are to advance sustainability by making sustainability actions practical, create a broad understanding of sustainability actions, and to engage the competitive market in driving increased sustainability and environmental improvement. We do this by: (1) Providing consumers with information and tools that make it easy for them to make choices in their daily lives that promote sustainability, including making "green" purchasing decisions ; (2) Providing companies and organizations with information and tools that make it easy for them to make choices that promote sustainability including making purchasing decisions that green their supply chain, document their sustainability achievements, and

communicate this to customers and potential customers.

Areas of Actions and Achievements

Increasing Public Understanding of Emissions Issues

In 1998 Leonardo Academy prepared the [reports](#) , "Consumer Guide to Green Energy Choices" and "Strategies for Protecting and Increasing the Delivery of Renewable Electricity," with funding from the Joyce Foundation. We also led a multi-stakeholder process that year to develop "The Multi-Pollutant Emission Reduction Reporting System." This report describes a consensus-based standard developed for a multiple-pollutant approach to emission reduction reporting. Addressing multiple pollutants at the same time created opportunities for lower-cost emission reduction options.

In 1999 we created the Cleaner and Greener® program to recognize actions and achievements in emission reductions for companies, organizations, buildings and events.

In 2003 we posted an emissions calculator on our web site to help companies, families and individuals quantify their emissions.

In 2010 we completed a National Standard for Emissions Reporting (LEO-5000), which was developed using the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) process. This standard covers the full range of pollutants, including those that affect climate and those that affect human health.

Promoting Use of Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) to Finance Efficiency and Emissions Reductions

From 2003-2007 Leonardo Academy promoted the use of ESPC by state and local governments to finance and implement energy efficiency and emissions reduction actions. We promoted use of International Measurement and Verification Protocol to provide metrics for ESCP.

We worked as a contractor to Oak Ridge National Laboratory and U.S. Department of Energy to help form the new organization, Energy Services Coalition to promote use of ESPC by state and local governments to implement energy efficiency and emissions reductions (barrier removal). We also provided executive director and management services for the Energy Services Coalition. The Energy Services Coalition continues to promote ESPC to deliver energy efficiency and emissions reductions to this day.

In 2008 we prepared the report, "The Energy Savings and Environmental Benefits Delivered by the Energy Savings Performance Contracting Industry".

Promoting Sustainable Buildings with LEED®

Leonardo Academy has been deeply involved in the development of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) since we joined the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) in 1999. We have been particularly involved in the development of the USGBC's LEED-EB Rating System since 2000, including chairing the LEED-EB committee from 2001-2005, managing the pilot, and conducting all LEED-EB certification reviews for the USGBC from 2002-2007. We continue to do reviews for the USGBC.

In 2007, Leonardo Academy launched its LEED certification consulting service by helping the William J. Clinton Presidential Library go from a LEED for New Construction (LEED-NC) Silver rating to a LEED-EB Platinum rating.

To date, Leonardo Academy has helped more than 600 buildings through the LEED process, and conducted LEED-EB assessments on over 84 buildings representing over 30 million square feet of building space. This includes a broad range of building uses (space types); single and multi-tenant office buildings, manufacturing, call centers, service centers, libraries and

museums. We have consulted on LEED implementation and certification for 34 projects representing over 21 million square feet of building space.

Transportation and Stationary Engine Emissions Reductions

In 2009 Leonardo Academy created its Transportation Program. It has brought mobile and stationary engine owners together with efficiency and emission reduction manufacturers to identify practical efficiency and emission reduction opportunities. Leonardo Academy has helped secure more than \$9 million in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state agency grants to support engine emission reductions.

In 2012, to promote the use of alternative fuels, Leonardo Academy developed and released a free mobile app that makes it easy to locate alternative fuels refueling stations.

Sustainable Agriculture

Leonardo Academy has been developing a national sustainable agriculture standard (LEO-4000) since 2008 using the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) process. The LEO-4000 standard will empower producers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers to promote increased sustainability in agriculture by providing clear requirements, performance metrics, verification, traceability and an effective branding language for sustainable agriculture production that is unprecedented. The pilot testing and launch will occur in 2013 and be followed in 2014 and 2015 by ongoing work on expanding the use of the standard in the marketplace.

Click here to learn more about Leonardo's early life and his family.

Click here to learn more about Leonardo's education and his early work.

Click here to learn more about Leonardo's later life and his death.