



15th August 2011

DO INDOOR PLANTS HAVE ANY REAL VALUE BEYOND AESTHETICS?

I would like to start with highlighting some of the value adds that indoor plants provide.

REDUCTION OF CO² AND POSSIBLE CARBON CREDITS

The USA Green Building Council is currently working to obtain actual data but from their work so far it appears that 54 indoor plants within a specific group of offices is expected / calculated to absorb between one and three tonnes of Carbon a year. We are busy trying to verify this research and should this be the case there is every possibility that companies will be able to claim carbon credits for their indoor plants.

A reduction in CO² and increase in O² with the use of indoor plants results in up to 70% higher awareness of staff and a 12% increase in productivity specifically in terms of computer related tasks.

GREEN BUILDING GREEN STAR RATING

With the move towards green star ratings for buildings indoor plants have a role to play here. In terms of the various categories green star rating categories indoor plants fall into the IEQ category (Indoor Environment Quality). I would like to highlight the following quote from Dr BC Wolverton, Chief NASA Scientist responsible for research into benefits of indoor plants - *"The ability of indoor plants to improve the quality of the air we breathe is now accepted scientific fact"*

SPECIFIC DOCUMENTED BENEFITS OF INDOOR PLANTS

- Indoor plants filter the air and reduce VOC's (volatile organic compounds) in particular formaldehyde. With most of our offices being sealed working environments there is a buildup of VOC's in the air we breathe. As a result indoor air quality is often 10 times more polluted than the exterior air even in our polluted cities. This buildup of VOC's leads to a number of health complaints, in particular allergic reactions and headaches.
- Plant filled rooms contain 50-60% fewer airborne molds and bacteria and health complaints are reduced by around 30%
- With the reduction in VOC's + airborne bacteria & molds there is up to a 50% reduction in absenteeism

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- Research conducted in 1995 in Washington proved that indoor plants in offices reduced stress and helped to increase productivity. Productivity and creativity is increased by around 12-15%
- Well-being of staff, just by having plants around them, is increased by a staggering 84%

ROBBIE STRANG
Managing Director