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Bissell's Irby building becomes first of five to earn LEED gold

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Susan Stabley](#)

The [U.S. Green Building Council](#) has certified the first of five office buildings in Ballantyne Corporate Park constructed to LEED gold-level standards.

[The Bissell Cos.](#) recently received that designation for the Irby building's core and shell. It's the first structure completed under the company's commitment to build 1 million square feet of speculative green office space.

Three other buildings in the park are being vetted under the USGBC's third-party verification rating system, and a fourth is under construction.

The Harris building is home to snack maker [Lance Inc.](#) Health-care company [Premier Inc.](#) will move its headquarters to the Boyle building this year. The Hays building is now available for leasing. Construction of the Everett building is still under way.

Gold certification is the third-highest of four levels in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

"It says a lot about the building itself and the developer," Barry Fabyan, Bissell vice president of office leasing services, says of the LEED designation. "I think we were a bit ahead of the curve."

An office building in midtown Charlotte also recently earned green certification. [AM King Construction Co.](#) received silver-level LEED certification for its headquarters at 610 E. Morehead St.

South End adds farmer's market

A farmer's market featuring local and regional foods is moving into the former Charlotte Trolley Barn.

The Atherton Market will open May 15 near South Boulevard and Tremont Avenue.

The market will initially be open on Tuesday and Saturdays.

Edens & Avant, owner and operator of the Atherton Mill complex, and Lynn Caldwell, manager of the local Tailgate Farmers Market, are partners in the project.

Yarn maker offers Thread gift

[Pharr Yarns](#) and the Carstarphen family will preserve 95 acres along the South Fork of the Catawba River in Gaston County, with the tract to be part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

The Carstarphens own Pharr Yarns, a yarn producer based in McAdenville.

The family made the donation through the [Catawba Lands Conservancy](#), lead agency for the Carolina Thread Trail, a 15-county, two-state greenway network.

The Pharr Yarns Preserve includes 69 acres of wetlands.

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