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By Roger Vincent, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
September 27, 2007

A downtown Los Angeles residential building called Elleven was the first California condominium project to receive a "gold" rating for its environmental standards, the developer said Wednesday.

The 13-story tower at 11th Street and Grand Avenue was completed in 2006 as the first of three condo buildings being built by Portland, Ore.-based South Group near Staples Center.

The U.S. Green Building Council, the country's largest arbiter of green real estate standards, gave Elleven a gold rating for such measures as bamboo floors and energy-efficient heating, air-conditioning and water systems.

The building also was credited for what has long been a rarity in high-rise residential construction: windows that actually open, allowing savings on air-conditioning costs.

South Group Principal Tom Cody said his company believed that there was "a veiled demand for sustainable homes" in Los Angeles when it started the project. All 176 units were sold at prices that surpassed \$1 million.

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