

- [Business](#)
- [Companies](#)

SM claims new malls ‘environment-friendly’

By [VG Cabuag](#)
October 31, 2017

SHOPPING mall operator SM Prime Holdings Corp. said its newly opened malls in Palawan and Cagayan already use energy-efficient measures as the company tries to bring down its carbon footprint.

The company said its new malls in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, and Tuguegarao, Cagayan, utilized some of the measures to bring down carbon footprint. These include using more natural light and waste-water treatment.

“More than distinct and iconic designs, SM also takes great care in considering that the designs fit a purpose, for the convenience of shoppers, for energy conservation, for higher visibility of tenants and for easier navigation,” said Fides Garcia-Hsu, vice president of SM’s engineering, design and development.

The company said its 3-story mall in Puerto Princesa, which spans a floor area of over 69,000 square meters, has high or clerestory windows to allow natural lighting, minimizing the use of electricity during day time.

Restaurant and toilet waste are treated via the sewage-treatment plant, while rainwater collection is incorporated with the water-recycling system that will be repurposed for toilet flushing, plants irrigation, cleaning or maintenance and other nonpotable purposes.

Recycled water will also be used in the air-conditioning system’s chilled water and cooling towers to reduce fresh water consumption, the company said.

In its Tuguegarao mall, on the other hand, SM Prime decided to preserve two large trees along Mabini Street. As a result, one of the entrances to the mall is located between tree canopies.

The mall uses LED lighting and has solar panels installed on the roof deck that can provide 484 kilowatts of electricity.

A rainwater catchment located at the entrance driveway can hold an equivalent of 215 cubic meters of floodwater equivalent to 215,000 1-liter soda bottles, the company said.

SM's move comes after rival Ayala Land Inc., which also builds shopping malls, embarked on a plan to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in its commercial properties and aims to be carbon neutral by 2022.

The company plans to achieve this through a combination of initiatives, which include passive cooling design, energy efficiency, renewable-energy sourcing and carbon offset mechanisms, such as forest regeneration and protection.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/sm-claims-new-malls-environment-friendly/>