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Atlantic Wharf project recognized as Boston's first green skyscraper

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The grass couldn't get much greener for Boston Properties.

It took the developer (NYSE: BXP) less than two years to fill nearly 800,000 square feet of office and retail space in the waterfront tower at 290 Congress St. as the vacancy rate in Boston's Financial District hit nearly 20 percent — not to mention quickly filling 80 loft-style apartments facing Atlantic Avenue.

Now, the 31-story glass and steel property overlooking Fort Point has achieved another milestone. The Urban Land Institute has awarded the developer its Global Award for Excellence for development of the 1.2 million square-foot mixed-use project that restored a historic structure on Boston's waterfront and incorporated a new skyscraper with office, residential and retail space.

The building is LEED Platinum certified and represents Boston Properties' commitment to sustainable development, the company said.

"This award means so much to us in so many ways," said Bryan Koop, regional manager for Boston Properties, at an event at the property on Thursday. "If this were football, the award would be the Heisman Trophy, if this was the movie business, this would be an Academy Award. This is the highest form of recognition that we can receive for our industry."

Brian Swett, the city's chief of environment and energy, filling in for Mayor Thomas M. Menino who remains at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital after weeks of hospitalization, said the city and the mayor love Atlantic Wharf. "Boston Properties was committed to getting LEED Gold, but they achieved LEED Platinum certification," said Swett, a former Boston Properties employee. "So the under-promising and over-delivering on green has set an incredibly high bar and we are extremely happy about that."

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PHOTO BY THOMAS GRILLO.

Atlantic Wharf on Fort Point Channel gets a national award as Boston's first green skyscraper.

