

CAL POLY Certifies First LEED Building

Located in the heart of the Cal Poly campus is Faculty Offices East, a Post-Modern office complex for the College of Science and Mathematics. This 3-story, 27,125 sq. ft. building uses mixed mode ventilation, skylights for increased day-lighting, water efficient restroom fixtures and energy efficient lighting to achieve substantial energy savings. Serving as a pilot project for the San Luis Obispo campus, FOE is Cal Poly's first LEED Certified building and received a Silver Level Certification in October 2008.

The leadership of Facility Services at Cal Poly became strongly motivated to begin the LEED EB process as a result of the management team attending an all-day introduction to LEED for Existing Buildings at the 2006 UC/CSU/CCC annual Sustainability Conference held at UCSC. As a result of this introduction, the team came away committed to beginning a careful and considered path towards implementation of a LEED EB program at Cal Poly. "We firmly believe that LEED promotes intelligent, environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial building operations" says Mark Hunter, Director of Facility Services.

"I am excited about developing the LEED program on campus as a means to engage the Facility Services staff, campus departments, building users and students to form a holistic approach to sustainability" says Project Team Administrator Cheryl Mollan. "We are considering the merits of migrating to the LEED Portfolio Program as a means to institutionalize sustainable practices".

Building upgrades include

- Replacement of restroom fixtures with low flow fixtures including urinals, toilets and aerator sensor faucets resulting in 73% water reduction
- Installation of counter tops which have 85% recycled glass content
- Use of mulch produced by landscape waste on campus, native plantings and high efficiency landscape irrigation show a 65% reduction in water usage
- New energy efficient hand dryers reduce the amount of waste generated from paper products (installed on 2nd floor, restrooms)
- Sensor activated low level exterior bollards and bi-level stairwell lighting are anticipated to save 75% energy compared to conventional T8 lights
- Carpet with a 40% recycled content installed in conference room
- "smokeless" urns (located at designated smoking area) reduce airborne contaminants by extinguishing the cigarette immediately upon disposal and also reduces ground-keeping labor as the urns are emptied less frequently. The urns are fabricated with 65% recycled content
- Installation of window tinting as a means to reduce solar heat gain
- Commissioning of all HVAC systems with associated repair / replacements as needed for optimal energy efficiency
- Achieved 75% recycling of construction waste
- Green cleaning products account for 90% of purchases
- Paints and sealants used in restroom upgrades contain No VOC (Volatile Organic Compound)